



Why do designers make women look like a bunch of tarts? Page 14

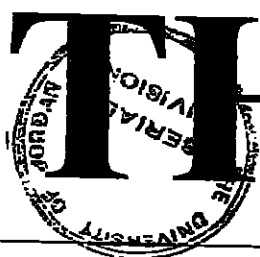


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You could set off for a break in Seville this evening Don't forget your passport, p21

20p



THE TIMES

No. 65,214

TUESDAY MARCH 14 1995

Gay lobby accused of intimidation

Church rallies to support of 'outed' bishop

By RUTH GLEDHILL AND ANDREW PIERCE

CHURCH leaders last night rallied round the Bishop of London, Dr David Hope, after he was forced by hard-line gay rights campaigners to admit his "ambiguous" sexuality.

Dr Hope, the third most senior figure in the Church of England, said his sexuality was a "greyer" area than for most people, but he had chosen to live "a single, celibate life".

He called a press conference at his home, London House, Westminster, yesterday to condemn the "intimidatory" and "profoundly disturbing" tactics of OutRage!, which "outed" ten allegedly gay bishops last year.

A spokesman for the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, said: "The Archbishop knew in advance of Bishop David's decision to make his statement and fully supports that decision."

The bishop took the unusual step of releasing a "seriously intimidatory" letter from OutRage!, which urged him to "voluntarily" declare his homosexuality. The letter was written by the former far-left Labour parliamentary candidate, Peter Tatchell, who heads OutRage!.

The 54-year-old bishop sought legal advice on whether the letter constituted blackmail. However, legal action has been ruled out. Instead he has launched a strong counter attack, going public with Mr Tatchell's allegations and gathering the support of his fellow bishops.

In his letter, which he delivered by hand in January, Mr Tatchell, 43, claimed he



Tatchell: claims to have "detailed information"

possessed "a lot of detailed information" about the bishop's private life that would have enabled him to name him along with the ten other bishops at the meeting of the General Synod last November. When challenged to produce this information, he was unable to do so.

Dr Hope, who is tipped a future Archbishop of York, said: "I find the current prosecution of the campaign profoundly disturbing in that it would seem to be based almost totally on rumour, unattributable sources and of an intimidatory nature."

The Bishop of London's announcement follows the decision by Bishop Derek Rawcliffe, an assistant in Ripon, to go public last week. Bishop Rawcliffe had been approached by OutRage!.

An unrepentant Mr Tatchell, who admitted yesterday that he had been in correspondence with Bishop Rawcliffe, warned that he was in contact with three other bishops who are under increasing pressure to come out. He said: "Two down, three to go."

Dr Hope said issues surrounding his sexuality were "private matters" but insisted: "I am not a sexually active person. Some people are clear about whether they are homosexual or heterosexual. I am talking about being more ambiguous about my sexuality. I still take the view that sexual acts are for within marriage. Outside marriage, I still feel that they are not acceptable."

Dr Hope said the question of personal sexuality "is morally neutral. I do not make any judgement about it. When I receive correspondence like this it is very difficult. I come back to this question about leading a single, celibate life. That is an important statement to make. I do not want or do not feel called to live any other way. I think that is a positive thing... I am very happy with that."

He decided to speak out after Mr Tatchell tipped off journalists that Dr Hope was at the top of OutRage!'s hitlist and was a sexually active gay man. He was targeted in part because he did not support an equal age of consent for homosexuals in last year's Commons vote.

Other gay rights organisations, such as Stonewall, whose leading member is Sir Ian McKellen, the award-winning actor, publicly dissociated themselves from the OutRage! campaign.

Gay crusader, page 5
William Rees-Mogg, page 16
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The events of yesterday have, in a paradoxical way, strengthened my faith, because I believe even more fully in this wonderful symbol of the cross.
— The Bishop of London explains his feelings on page 5

Blair acclaims party backing for his new Clause Four

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR last night hailed a milestone on Labour's road to election victory as he won backing from the party's ruling executive for his attempt to ditch the historic commitment to nationalisation, Clause Four.

After a four-hour meeting, members of the 29-strong body voted 21 to three with five abstentions, for a new clause which Mr Blair and John Prescott had finalised on Sunday.

A triumphant Mr Blair described the move as a "defining moment in history" as he unveiled the new wording which calls for a mixed economy where "power, wealth and opportunity are in the hands of the many not the few." The new Clause Four also supports a dynamic economy, a just society, an open democracy and a healthy environment.

Mr Blair argued that for too long Labour had been afraid to admit change. It had told the public it had changed while reassuring the party it had not. "Far from being ashamed to admit change, I want the public to know of the changes we have made, to see more of the party we have become," Mr Blair said. "A modern, progressive, left of centre party facing up to a new century with clarity and confidence. We are the people's party." Mr Prescott claimed the new statement was a "modern vision of democratic socialism" which would inspire the party to work even harder for victory.

Although Mr Blair was opposed by Dennis Skinner and Diane Abbott, the left-wing MPs, and Vernon Hince from the RMT, the rail workers union, the main text of his draft survived almost unchanged.

Mr Blair succeeded in beating off attempts by the more hardline union for a stronger

commitment to public ownership or full employment. Five unions abstained but it looks certain that he will win comfortably at the special conference on Clause Four on April 29 with majority backing by both trade unionists and constituents.

Mr Blair was given a further boost by the results of the consultation exercise which showed that 69 per cent of members and branches had voted to change Clause Four, as had 56 per cent of unions.

Mr Blair insisted that Labour was still committed to the objective of high and stable levels of employment but the new wording merely calls for "the opportunity for all to work and prosper." Nevertheless the Transport and General

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al Workers Union, which abstained yesterday and which was expected to vote against Mr Blair next month, signalled that it might rally behind the Labour leader at the special conference.

The part of the new Clause Four which will replace the controversial part of the old clause reads: "The Labour Party is a democratic socialist party. It believes that by the strength of our common endeavour we achieve more than we achieve alone so as to create for each of us the means to realise our true potential and for all of us a community in which power, wealth and opportunity are in the hands of the many not the few, where the rights we enjoy reflect the duties we owe, and where we live together, freely in a spirit of solidarity, tolerance and respect."

Girl B 'eager for treatment'

The ten-year-old girl at the centre of a High Court action over her leukemia said she was eager to begin treatment yesterday after learning for the first time that her cancer had returned.

The girl, named only as B, was admitted to the private Portland Hospital for Women and Children in central London yesterday evening to face her latest battle against the disease... Page 3

Assault sentence

Dennis Wise, the England and Chelsea footballer, was freed pending an appeal yesterday, less than two hours after being given a three-month prison sentence for a vicious assault on a taxi driver... Page 3

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Minister resists call to support Canada over fish

By JAMES LANDALE AND MICHAEL BINYON

THE DISPUTE between Canada and the European Union over fishing stocks will not be resolved by gunboat diplomacy, Michael Jack, the fisheries minister, told the Commons yesterday.

Mr Jack was under pressure from MPs on all sides of the House to back Canada. But in an oblique reference to Canada's seizure last Thursday of the Spanish fishing boat *Estai*, he said the row should be resolved through "quiet diplomacy" and not "precipitate action on the high seas". Only when pressed did Mr Jack say that he had "some sympathy" with the Canadians.

Royce Frith, the Canadian high commissioner in London, said the British government was in a difficult position. "It is in a very tough spot on this case and the fishing in the Irish box. In both cases it is managed by membership of

the EU. I know the British Government would have liked to help us."

Peter Shore, Labour MP for Bethnal Green and Stepney and veteran Euro-sceptic, made a passionate attack on the EU, and especially Emma Bonino, the fisheries commissioner.

He said he was shocked by "the hostile, bellicose language" that the Commissioner had used, particularly in describing the Canadian action as "an act of organised piracy".

Sir Teddy Taylor, the Euro-sceptic Tory MP for Southend East, urged the Government not to agree any EU sanctions or other punitive action against Canada without seeking MPs' consent.

Gwyneth Dunwoody, Labour MP for Crewe and Nantwich, said it was a disgrace that even on Commonwealth Day, "this House is not

prepared to say openly that we are sick of the way the Spanish have consistently broken the rules and it is our intention to support the Canadians."

Paul Tyler, the Liberal Democrat MP for Cornwall North, said: "We would have more sympathy with the position the Spanish now find themselves in if the Spanish Government had taken immediate action following the Bay of Biscay incidents in which Cornish fishermen were involved with acts of piracy from Spain last summer."

The only support for the Government came from David Harris, Tory MP for St Ives, who said that while the sympathy of British fishermen was with the Canadians, "these disputes must be settled in accordance with international law".

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Leading article, page 17

Back us on arms, Major tells Clinton

FROM ARTHUR LEATHLEY IN JERUSALEM

TENSIONS between John Major and President Clinton were heightened last night as the Prime Minister intensified his pressure on the US Administration to inject extra momentum into the Northern Ireland peace process.

Mr Major called on Mr Clinton to press Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, to take immediate steps aimed at disarming the IRA.

Mr Major sent a bluntly worded letter to the White House at the weekend containing a clear message that Britain expects the US to act as a close partner in the peace negotiations.

In a sign that next month's Washington meeting between Mr Major and Mr Clinton may be strained, British officials said that the Prime Minister would not hesitate to use strong language over the US on the issue of Northern Ireland. A senior Downing Street official said: "Ireland is

too important to be glossed over."

Ministers have been dismayed that Mr Clinton ignored British appeals and allowed Mr Adams to raise funds during this week's visit to Washington.

Yesterday the Prime Minister, who is visiting Israel, underlined his expectation that Mr Clinton should back Britain in telling Sinn Féin to make moves towards de-commissioning before ministers agree to meet Mr Adams.

A senior British government official said: "One looks to one's friends and partners to do what they can to deliver." Ministers are concerned that the momentum of the peace talks could be seriously slowed down unless Mr Adams puts pressure on the IRA to give up at least some of its weapons and explosives.

Mr Major said yesterday in Jerusalem: "What we are... Continued on page 2, col 5

Clegg 'devastated' by wait for release review

By NICHOLAS WATT AND MICHAEL EVANS



Clegg: 'further blow to my morale'

JAILED paratrooper Private Lee Clegg was "devastated" last night after being told he will have to wait another three months before his case for early release can be officially reviewed.

Private Clegg's reaction followed an announcement that Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, had decided his case could be examined by the Life Sentence Review Board in June. Private Clegg, who was sentenced to life for the murder of 18-year-old Karen Reilly, a passenger in a stolen car in West Belfast, would normally have had to wait 10 years before being eligible for a parole review. He has served three years.

However, the decision which came in a statement from the Northern Ireland Office, was greeted with dismay by the 26-year-old soldier and by Simon McKay, his solicitor, who visited him in Wakefield prison yesterday.

In a statement issued through Mr McKay, Private Clegg said: "My term of imprisonment has been made bearable by the huge amount of public support I have received since my appeal (to the Law Lords) was dismissed in January. When I received the (latest) news I was devastated. It's a further blow to my morale."

Explaining why Private Clegg's case could be reviewed seven years earlier than usual, the Northern Ireland Office said there were "exceptional mitigating" factors. A much earlier review was "appropriate", a spokesman said.

Although the review by the Life Sentence Review Board in June will not guarantee immediate release, there is rising expectation that he could be freed later this year.

Mr McKay said he was "very frustrated" by the news that his client had to wait a further three months before the case would be considered. "I had anticipated him being out well before June," he said. Mr McKay, who called on John Major to intervene, was confident the conviction would eventually be quashed.

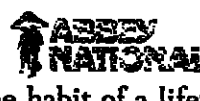
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Implausible socialist who hounds fat cats but lets sleeping dogs lie

"Is there any other point to which you would wish to draw my attention?"

"To the curious incident of the dog in the night-time."

"The dog did nothing in the night-time." "That was the curious incident," remarked Sherlock Holmes.

In his new brain-teaser, *The Sherlock Holmes IQ Book*, Dr Madsen Pirie, president of the Adam Smith Institute, draws our attention to this passage — and to another, to which I shall return.

Sitting in the Press Gallery

directly above Tony Blair and within pigeon's range of the top of the Opposition Leader's head, the book has preoccupied me. There have been about 30 prime minister's questions since Blair became leader of his party and I have heard every question he has put to Mr Major. He has complete freedom to choose his subject.

I have made a list of those he has chosen: the dogs that do bark and those that don't. They make a fascinating study. A survey of the kennels,

occupied or otherwise, suggests to me that it is Mr Blair's intention to address himself almost exclusively to Middle England: to the readers of the *Daily Mail*.

First, the empty kennels. At PMQs, Blair has never backed any public sector pay demand, though many have dominated the news. He has never spoken up for any local authority. He has never raised local government at all. He has not supported the teachers' silence on that. He has steered clear of defence,



MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

Though he once asked Major if he believed in reducing inequality, the Leader of the British Labour Party has never once complained about welfare benefits for the poor; about poverty; or about homelessness. He has never mentioned council housing. The only social security issue he has lighted upon is mort-

gage protection for owner-occupiers who lose their jobs.

He has never raised education, or commented on Tory reforms in the area. His only excursion into NHS reforms has been to complain about an increase in bureaucrats' numbers. He has never directly criticised any past privatisation, (but four times expressed

worries about the railways). He has never touched the subject of labour relations or trade unions.

A whole pack of silent hounds! So here are the dogs that do bark: ten times (on nearly a third of all his opportunities) the Blairite dog has barked at "fat cats", or on related issues. Six times he has stirred the pot over Tory backbench and Cabinet squabbles about Europe. Four times he has twisted the knife over "Tory sleaze", or related issues. Twice he has

complained about the betrayal of Tory tax promises.

A visitor to our Press Gallery from Mars could be forgiven for supposing that Mr Blair was a disappointed Tory, railing against the idiosyncrasies and blunders of his natural ideological bed-fellows.

And I cannot get out of my head that angry, off-the-cuff bark at an interviewer who in early December last year asked Blair about his choice of school for his son. "I am not going to make a choice."

barked Blair, "on the basis of what is politically correct." Nobody for whom that sneer on the words "politically correct" could come naturally, could be a socialist, a democratic socialist, a socialistic democrat, or even (as Blair claims) a socialist. It is impossible.

"It is an old maxim of mine," Sherlock Holmes said, "that when you have excluded the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth."

Could the Martians be right?

Heseltine defends high pay as leak shows inquiry rift

By ALICE THOMSON AND NICHOLAS WOOD

MICHAEL HESELTINE rallied to the defence of highly paid privatised industry bosses last night as a leaked letter showed him resisting John Major's demands for a searching inquiry into their pay and perks.

Ignoring the Prime Minister's promise to legislate if necessary to curb excessive pay awards, the President of the Board of Trade told the Commons that the bosses were worth every penny.

In the second reading debate on the Gas Bill, Mr Heseltine gave his full support to Cedric Brown, chief executive of British Gas, who has been heavily criticised for his £475,000 salary and 268,000 share options. Mr Brown was in the gallery for the debate.

According to the letter leaked last night by Labour Mr Heseltine told the Prime Minister that too intrusive an investigation ran the risk of generating further bad publicity for the Government.

Dr Jack Cunningham, the Shadow Trade Secretary, who disclosed the letter in the Commons, said it was evidence of differences between No 10 and the Trade Department over "fat cat" pay.

Dr Cunningham said: "The letter demonstrates pressure from No 10 on Mr Heseltine. The President says he's very loath to even start making inquiries about it because he does not want public discussion, concern or involvement.

The Prime Minister has said what is happening is distasteful and wants, at least, the semblance of action, but Mr Heseltine is taking no action. There is clearly some tension between them."

The letter, dated March 7, from the Prime Minister's private secretary to Mr Heseltine's private secretary, was described to MPs by Dr Cunningham as he clashed with Mr Heseltine in the Commons.

In it, Mr Heseltine also warns Mr Major to brace himself for a further round of damaging headlines in June and July when more details of boardroom earnings are given in company accounts. It cautions that more "cause célèbre" such as Mr Brown's remain to be uncovered if people are prepared to dig deep enough in the companies' own registers. "It could be that new cases will come to light when the 1994-95 reports and accounts are published," the letter says.

In the Commons, Mr Heseltine denied that he was at odds with the Prime Minister over the proposed curbs on the pay of privatised industry directors. He said that the total cost of board pay and share options for British Gas amounted to less than £10 million a year. He contrasted that to British Gas's total turnover of nearly £10 billion. "If there were no directors, no stock options and no bonuses

it would reduce the price to the domestic customer by 50p a year."

Mr Heseltine also attacked Greville Janner, the Labour chairman of the Commons committee investigating executives' high salaries. He accused Mr Janner of making "a killing" from advising the same chief executives on improving their presentation skills through his JSB Group company. There was a potential conflict of interests and Mr Janner could not keep "hunting with the hounds as well as the hare."

Ridiculing Labour's suggestion that the gas regulator should be given powers to drive down prices in the event of "unjustified" salary and share-option increases, Mr Heseltine said the Bill, which would end British Gas's monopoly in providing gas for 18 million domestic consumers, would cut prices and increase efficiency. He promised that special services to pensioners, the disabled and the blind, would continue and safety would be a priority.

The letter, headed Directors' Pay and Share Options, was written by Rachel Jenkins, private secretary to Mr Heseltine, to Mary Francis, private secretary to Mr Major. It was marked "restricted — policy", the lowest form of Whitehall security classification. However, its disclosure could spark another leak inquiry.



The Princess of Wales was a surprise visitor to London Fashion Week yesterday (Lain R. Webb writes). Flanked by Anna Harvey, deputy editor of *Vogue*, and Clinton Silver, chairman of the British Fashion Council, she sat in the front row for the presentation by the designer Joe Casley Hayford, showing after a five-

Front seat at fashion week

year absence from British catwalks. The Princess, who was wearing a neat black suit with a velvet collar by her

favourite designer, Catherine Walker, was obviously amused to see traditional royal favourites such as twinsets and green wellington boots given a new lease of life by the young designer.

Chambers face surplus of 700 students

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE shortage of places at the Bar is expected to reach crisis level if the Bar Council agrees proposals this week to license universities to run the profession's vocational entry course. Bar leaders have admitted that as many as 300 extra students might be produced by the nine institutions

to have expressed interest in being validated to run the one-year course.

The result would be a surplus of some 700 students over training places in chambers (pupillages) each year, and the risk of what one senior barrister called "acrimonious disputes and litigation". There is already a critical shortage of training places in chambers for the Bar, with about 1,000

student barristers yearly seeking one of the 600 pupillages on offer.

The proposal, which goes before a meeting of the Bar Council this weekend, would increase the output of students with no corresponding rise in the number of pupillages offered by chambers.

Robert Wright, QC, a senior barrister who for 10 years chaired committees on train-

ing at Lincoln's Inn, has warned that the problem of selection from a bigger pool of students will fall on chambers already grappling with "an intolerable" selection burden.

"There is no machinery in place or even suggested which will provide a fair process of selection by present standards of equal opportunity."

Legal, page 31

RING THE CHANGES AT WORK.

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But, if you run a business, you must check all the changes are in place now. As you are no doubt aware, a 1 has been added to all UK area codes, and a 1 has been subtracted from the international access code (it has changed from 010 to 00, bringing it into line with our European partners).

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16 APRIL 1995

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Major's plea to Clinton

Continued from page 1
saying to political representatives of Sinn Féin is let us discuss not just broad waffly views about what we actually need to do about arms. Let us actually discuss practical modalities of disposing of arms that no peaceful body needs. That is what I want Sinn Féin to enter into."

Mr Major underlined his call for Mr Clinton to add his weight by adding that it would be necessary for Mr Adams to examine the practicalities of de-commissioning.

"I very much hope that that is a step that Gerry Adams is prepared to take. I very much hope that course is urged upon him."

However Mr Major dismissed suggestions that the current difficulties between Downing Street and the White House might threaten the longer-term relationship between London and Washington. "I don't suppose we are always going to agree on each and every subject on each and every occasion. There is nothing new about that."

"It isn't going to affect the overwhelming degree of mutual interests that exist between the UK and the US and the President of the US and the Prime Minister of Britain."

Mr Major insisted that there needed to be progress to end the years of suffering.

Adams basks in US reception

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

NOTHING legitimises a politician in American eyes more effectively than the ability to raise cash in large amounts, and the launch of a fundraising campaign for Sinn Féin by Gerry Adams has won him fresh acclaim here.

The *New York Times* yesterday praised President Clinton for lifting the ban on Sinn Féin fundraising and called British opposition to the move "silly".

Mr Adams collected an estimated \$20,000 (about £12,600) during his first fundraising appearance at a dance hall in the borough of Queens on Sunday, where he told 1,000 enthusiastic supporters he was delighted with the warmth of his reception in the United States. To underscore his party's new stature in America, Mr Adams announced that Sinn Féin now plans to open an office in Washington.

Mr Adams was expected to meet the New York State Governor, George Pataki, yesterday before a dinner with Irish-American state legislators.

If the Sinn Féin leader's earlier visits to America were viewed with some scepticism, his current tour has evoked only the most positive reactions in the American press.

The *New York Post* commended Mr Adams' "bold steps" in "agreeing to discuss disarmament with British officials".

The British Government was widely condemned for attempting to prevent the fundraising tour.

The centrepiece of Mr Adams' New York tour will be a \$200-a-plate lunch at the Plaza Hotel tomorrow before he moves on to Washington. □ Loyalist politicians gave warning yesterday of unease among Protestant paramilitaries about the Government's handling of the peace process (Nicholas Watt writes).

Billy Hutchinson, of the Progressive Unionist Party, which has links to the Ulster Volunteer Force, said yesterday that there were "rumblings of discontent" because the Government and the Clinton administration were concentrating on keeping the IRA on board.

Mr Hutchinson said: "We just feel that we are being treated as bit players... The Americans, the Irish Republic and the British are going to have to recognise that the peace process is a two-way street. I can't keep people on board if these people refuse to recognise parity of esteem." However, Mr Hutchinson said that he and his party were opposed to a return to violence. He called on ministers to join the talks he has been holding with officials.

Solicitor jailed

A solicitor was jailed for seven years yesterday for stealing £3 million from dead clients' accounts. Graham Shaw, 35, of Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire, used the money, much of which had been left to charities, to finance a luxury lifestyle, revive his firm and clear debts.

Tunnel warning

Eurotunnel warned motorists without reservations that they should not travel before 3pm on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, until a first-come-first-served system is introduced on April 2. There were long queues for "turn up and go" tickets at the Folkestone terminal at the weekend.

Prison pitch

A proposal to build a £70,000 all-weather football pitch at Parkhurst top security prison has been attacked as a waste of taxpayers' money. John Ritchie, a county councillor in the Isle of Wight, said the money should be spent on making sure prisoners could not escape.

Card fraud falls

Plastic card fraud fell by 25 per cent for the third consecutive year, according to figures published yesterday. The drop from £129 million to £96 million last year compares with a record high of £165.5 million in 1991. Five thousand cards are reported lost or stolen every day.

Dons divided over professorships

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD dons clashed yesterday over proposals for a new promotions system as reformers appeared to gain ground in the battle for votes. The plans, which are expected to be narrowly approved in a ballot this week, would end the university's egalitarian tradition as a "republic of letters" by creating hundreds of professorships and readerships.

The proposals to offer Oxford's 1,200 academics a clear career structure for the first time have caused consternation at high table. Traditionalists are adamant that the university risks jeopardising its worldwide reputation for

excellent undergraduate teaching by encouraging academics to concentrate on research.

Two Oxford dons who received Britain's highest academic accolade, being elected fellows of the Royal Society while they were still lecturers, have given the new system lukewarm support.

Dr Keith McLauchlan, a reader in physical chemistry, who was elected to the Royal Society two years ago, said yesterday the achievement would have won him promotion to professor at almost any other university. While the lack of title had not mattered

much within Oxford, it had hindered him elsewhere. "On several occasions I was invited to give lectures abroad only for people to cancel when the people involved discovered I was not a professor."

Dr McLauchlan said he supported the proposals without any great enthusiasm because they would not reward promotion with an increase in salary. He said his income as a lecturer would have increased from £30,000 to about £38,000 if his election to the Royal Society had led to a chair.

Dr Carole Jordan, a reader in physics, elected a fellow of

the Royal Society in 1990, said her chief source of frustration at not being a professor was when dealing with outsiders, particularly Americans.

Dr Jordan, who is president of the Royal Astronomical Society, said: "People introduced me as a professor all the time and it was embarrassing to have to decide whether to say anything or not."

Cambridge University, with too many students from London and the Home Counties, has launched a recruitment drive in the North of England and Scotland.

Loans chief sacked, page 7

Chelsea captain who assaulted taxi driver free to play until appeal

Footballer jailed for attack is given bail

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

DENNIS WISE, the England and Chelsea footballer, was freed pending an appeal yesterday, less than two hours after being given a three-month prison sentence for a vicious assault on a taxi driver.

The 28-year-old Chelsea captain, had been led to a cell from the dock at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court in central London, but a judge at Southwark Crown Court granted him unconditional bail.

The midfielder, who will appeal against the sentence and conviction, is free to play for his club until the hearing, although a thigh injury will rule him out of today's European Cup Winners' Cup match with FC Bruges of Belgium.

Wise had denied charges of assault against Gerald Graham, 65, and damaging his cab outside Scribes West, a London nightclub owned by Terry Venables, the England coach. He was found guilty last month by Horseferry Road magistrates and sentence had been deferred until yesterday. The offences occurred last October when Wise and Geraldine Lennon, 24, his girlfriend, were trying to hail a taxi.

Geoffrey Breen, the stipendiary magistrate, said Wise had resorted to the actions of a bully in assaulting Mr Graham when the driver declined to take him.

Mr Breen told the footballer, who held his head in his hands and appeared to be

close to tears when he heard the sentence: "You have been found guilty of assaulting a 65-year-old man in quite disgraceful circumstances. When he made it clear that he was not going to bow to your demands you resorted to violence."

Instead of going to the assistance of Miss Lennon, who was in some danger as the cab moved off with her still clinging to a door, Wise had "kicked out the reinforced glass partition and punched and manhandled Mr Graham with a view to further violence."

Only the intervention of police prevented the incident escalating and Mr Graham was "clearly quite terrified, shocked and stressed".

Eric Hall, Wise's agent, said outside the court that he was "monster, monster shocked" by the sentence. He added: "We knew that this could happen and we are prepared for it. He is very resilient."

The court was told Wise had received "hate mail" since the conviction.

The magistrate emphasised that he was not making an example of Wise just because he was a professional footballer who had represented his country, but he had treated him "as anyone else in the same circumstances".

Wise was ordered to pay £965.14 compensation for damage to Mr Graham's taxi, £169.95 for damage to his spectacles and £100 for the "shock and distress" suffered by the driver. He was also

ordered to pay £370 prosecution costs.

As soon as Wise received his three-month sentence his lawyers went to Southwark Crown Court where they successfully applied for bail pending the appeal at a short hearing before Judge Rogers, QC.

Colin Hutchinson, managing director of Chelsea FC, said: "We were very shocked by the sentence... Chelsea are giving him their full support." Mr Venables said that it was a "sad day" for football.

The three-month jail sentence on Wise is the latest blow to the reputation of English football (John Goodbody writes).

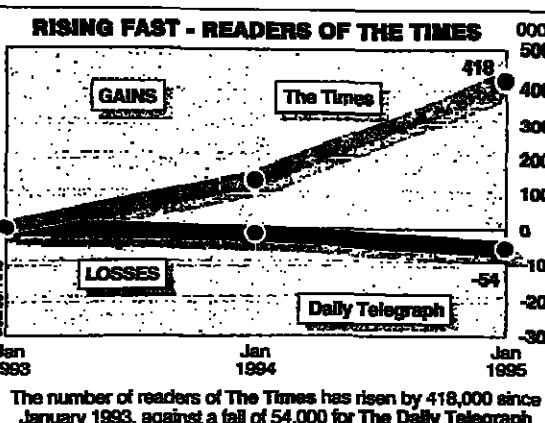
The national game has had to cope with controversy involving sleaze, drug-taking and violence, which began in November with claims that Bruce Grobbelaar, the Southampton and former Liverpool goalkeeper, attempted to fix the results of matches. Grobbelaar has denied the allegations but the Football Association has charged him with bringing the game into disrepute.

Eric Cantona and Paul Ince of Manchester United have been charged with common assault after an incident during a game at Selhurst Park. Last month, Arsenal sacked their manager George Graham after a Premier League inquiry alleged that he received £425,000 from a Danish agent. There has also been a revival of football hooliganism involving English fans, in Dublin and Bruges.



Wise and his agent Eric Hall, left, arriving at court yesterday for sentencing

THE TIMES



Britain's most successful newspaper

YEAR by year, The Times is setting new circulation records and confirming its reputation as Britain's fastest growing national newspaper.

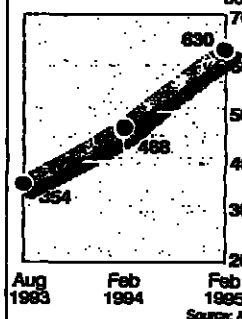
More than 1,500,000 readers now enjoy The Times every day, an increase of 418,000 over the past two years — and of 284,000 in 1994, according to the newly published National Readership Survey, the bible of the advertising industry.

For the second year in succession, the year-on-year rise in daily readership of The Times (at 22 per cent between August 1994 and January 1995) is the highest for any national daily or Sunday newspaper — and contrasts with a fall of 20 per cent for The Independent and of 12.6 per cent for The Guardian.

The increase in readership — measured at 2.7 readers per copy — is particularly notable among the affluent ABC1s (up over two years by 364,000 a day) and among women, up by nearly 200,000 a day.

Average daily sales of The Times are also growing fast. At 630,690 a day in February, when sales of The Daily Telegraph fell by 12,000, sales were up by 35 per cent on a year ago, and 78 per cent — 276,000 copies a day — since autumn 1993, demonstrating that The Times is Britain's biggest newspaper success story.

GROWING FAST



Marchioness jury hears of chaos on rescue airwaves

By EMMA WILKINS

CONFUSION on the Thames on the night of the sinking of the *Marchioness* pleasureboat nearly six years ago meant vital minutes were lost in the rescue operation, the second inquest into the tragedy heard yesterday.

A jury at Hamme Smith Coroner's Court listened as tape-recordings of wireless messages between river traffic and police showed that rescuers were misled by garbled radio messages.

The *Marchioness*, which was struck by the dredger *Bowbelle* in the early hours of Sunday August 20, 1989, sank with the loss of 51 lives near Southwark Bridge. The tape revealed that rescuers at first thought that the cruiser was at Battersea Bridge, five miles upstream.

Bereaved families and survivors of the disaster fought for a second inquest since the first hearing was adjourned after just four days soon after the accident.

John Burton, West London coroner, told the jury: "It's always chaos in a case like this. The question is how quickly can you bring the chaos under control."

Mr Burton then instructed the tape to be played. An unknown vessel reports the sinking at 1.46am over the VHF channel 14, which is operated by the Port of London Authority's Thames Navigation Service, known as Woolwich Radio. "Wapping police, Wapping police, emer-

gency. Pleasure boat is sunk. Cannon Street railway bridge. All emergency aid please."

Just 20 seconds later, Thames police at Wapping tell Woolwich Radio that they only heard part of the message and request clarification. "Woolwich Radio responds: 'Yeah, pleasureboat sunk at Battersea Road Bridge. It was very muffled, but that's what I got here.' The unknown vessel clarifies its message: 'Marchioness is sunk. Bowbelle just sunk her.'"

Just under three minutes after the first report, the *Bowbelle* transmits: "I have to get underway and proceed out through bridges, eh, I believe I have struck a pleasure craft. It has sunk."

"I am getting clear of the bridges now, um. I was distracted by flashing lights from another pleasure craft, um, my vessel was proceeding outward bound just approaching Cannon Street bridge and I just lost steerage, um, and I don't know after that, I cannot say anything else sir. Over."

Woolwich Radio requests confirmation that there are people on board the pleasureboat and the *Bowbelle* replies that the cruiser was full and proceeds to assist in the rescue.

It was not until 1.56am that Woolwich Radio says: "All vessels are requested to go to the vicinity of Cannon Street and Blackfriars Rail where people are in the water."

The hearing continues.

'New Year Rapist' faces life sentence

By PAUL WILKINSON

KEVIN LAKEMAN, the notorious "New Year Rapist" whom police believe to be Britain's worst serial sex attacker, was facing life imprisonment last night. The father of five, who stalked the streets of Sunderland for 12 years, was convicted on four sample charges relating to three attacks on New Year's Day 1982 and one on the same day in 1994.

When he was arrested 14 months ago police uncovered enough evidence to charge him initially with 30 offences — 12 rapes, 14 attempted rapes and four indecent assaults — dating back to 1981.

Lakeman, 33, was described as a "very dangerous man exhibiting sexual characteristics of a perverse and disturbing nature" after a jury at Leeds Crown Court took two hours to find him guilty of two rapes and one attempted rape in 1982. He had pleaded guilty to a separate rape charge from New Year's Day last year.

Mr Justice Potts said he was considering life imprisonment for Lakeman, of Sunderland, who threatened to "slice up" his victims before raping them at knifepoint. Sentencing was deferred for psychiatric reports.

A further eight rapes and four attempted rapes will remain on file because the prosecution said it would not be in the public interest to proceed. The judge is to recommend a commendation for the police inquiry team.

Girl B starts private therapy in the final battle for life

By JEREMY LAURENCE
HEALTH SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

THE ten-year-old girl at the centre of a High Court action over health service care said she was eager to resume leukaemia therapy yesterday after learning for the first time that the disease had returned.

The girl, named only as B, was admitted to the private Portland Hospital for Women and Children in central London yesterday evening to face her final battle against the disease that has blighted half her life. Dr Peter Gravett, consultant haematologist in charge of her treatment, spelt out what she will have to undergo. He said he would know within three weeks whether she still had a chance of survival. "She knows all about it, she is very keen to start," he said.

Doctors were inserting a Hickman's catheter into her chest through which drugs and blood transfusions will be passed. "She was particularly keen to have that in because she knows it means no more



Dr Gravett: "She knows all about it and is keen"

needles," Dr Gravett said. This morning doctors will begin a five-day course of chemotherapy after performing tests on her blood and bone marrow to determine which drugs are required.

Dr Gravett said: "The aim of the chemotherapy is to clear out the leukaemia. During the third week the white blood cells will begin to come back and we will check then whether they are normal or whether the disease is returning." A decision would then be taken

on whether to proceed to a second bone marrow transplant. Dr Gravett said the girl understood her plight but he did not think she knew she was the Child B she is said to have heard about on the radio.

He said she had a 10 per cent chance of going into remission after the initial chemotherapy and a 1 per cent chance overall with a second bone marrow transplant. The girl's father lost a legal battle last week to obtain NHS treatment for his daughter after three NHS consultants advised that the chances of success were too low and the cost — at £75,000 — too great. They said the money could be better spent on other patients. Her treatment, which will cost £15,000 for the initial five days of chemotherapy, is being paid for by an anonymous donor.

Dr Gravett has done 150 bone marrow transplants in ten years but in only four cases was it a second transplant. "Among the four, my only successful one was an adult. I operated for a second time on two children. They both left hospital but then relapsed."

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Human cost tempers celebrations in the profit capital of Britain

By PAUL WILKINSON

GRIMSBY was basking in early spring sunshine and an unexpected moment of glory yesterday after being declared the profit-making capital of Britain.

However, people in the Humber-side town are not about to celebrate this supposed change in their declining fortunes. The fishing industry has all but collapsed, unemployment is running at about 10 per cent and United Biscuits, which featured as one of the big profit-makers in the weekend survey of 30,000 firms, has just closed its KP snack-food plant, adding 1,000 people to the local dole queue.

Alec Bovill, Mayor of the Labour-controlled borough, said: "We have known for some time that high profits do not mean lots of jobs, so I think the time has come for local authorities and business to start thinking afresh how business can benefit the community."

Jim Tattersdale, an Independent

member of the council, blamed the high level of unemployment for increasing company profits. "Wages are kept low because workers are frightened of losing their jobs," he said. The point is made everywhere that most new firms are not labour-intensive.

Even the businessmen were cautious. Trevor Knowles, president of the Chamber of Commerce, said: "While we have several substantial

companies in this area, we should not forget the large number of small and medium family firms which work hard to make a living and whose profits are only modest."

The town, which has a population of 90,000, has always seemed out on a limb on the southern extremity of the Humber estuary, but its position has given it close links with the rest of Europe since Viking times. Its name is said to

come from Grim, a Viking who founded the first settlement. Much of the Scandinavian fishing fleet still lands catches there.

Despite the decline of the British fleet, fishing remains big business. The all-pervasive smell from the processing plant that used to dominate the town might have gone, but £13 million of European Union money is being spent on modernising the fish docks. Foreign-

owned factory ships now land frozen fish for further attention from Ross Young and Bird's Eye.

Food processing is a big industry today. Motorists arriving on the M180, known in the 1980s as the motorway to nowhere because of the town's declining fortunes and remoteness, are now greeted by signs welcoming them to Great Grimsby, Europe's Food Town. More than 500 firms are involved

in food manufacturing, distribution, cold storage and packaging.

The decline of the commercial docks enabled Grimsby to offer investors large tracts of derelict land for development and today the port is once again a big earner. Last year Grimsby and its associated container port of Immingham handled 40 million tonnes of cargo.

More than 20 years ago Elton John wrote a song lauding the town, although few might agree with his words. "Oh, Oh, Grimsby, a thousand delights couldn't match the sweet sights of my Grimsby."

One who would be Austin Mitchell, the town's flamboyant Labour MP and leading publicist. "Why be surprised if Grimsby is the best place to make a profit?" he said. "I am only surprised it has taken so long to come out."

"Those who do come here love it. If the Viking who Grimsby was named after had been called Beauty instead of Grim, the whole thing would have been very different."



Elton John: sang of the delights of Grimsby

Economic divide emerges on east-west lines

By ERIC REGULY

DUN & BRADSTREET, the business-information company whose survey found that Grimsby is the most profitable place to do business in Britain, said that the south Humber-side town's fortunes were another example of the country's emerging east-west divide.

Philip Mellor, D & B's senior

analyst and the author of the report, said: "It used to be a north-south divide, with the South always richer than the North. Now we're seeing an east-west divide."

The study of 30,000 large businesses in 162 towns found that 89.5 per cent of companies in Grimsby made a profit last year - against a national average of 74.9 per cent.

Areas such as Wales and the

South West have suffered from reductions in defence spending and the near collapse of heavy engineering, steel-making and mining.

Grimsby is an ideal model for recovery. It replaced fish-processing with broader-based food processing. Wales is pinning its future on electronic products such as televisions and car components. The South West, which has had less luck

with new businesses, wants to increase tourism.

Mr Mellor thinks the trend will continue, partly because the east coast is becoming Britain's gateway to Europe. Areas further away from London fared poorly in D & B's study. Several towns in the Home Counties, headed by Aylesbury, Hitchin and Wokingham, came at the bottom of the list.

Student loans chief sacked for misuse of taxpayers' money

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

WHISKY, cigars and tickets to pop concerts bought at taxpayers' expense have led to the sacking of the businessman responsible for the Government's student loans programme, his company disclosed yesterday.

Ron Harrison, the chief executive of the Student Loans Company, has been dismissed for "financial irregularities" after an investigation by accountants commissioned by the Education Department. He has been on sick leave since before Christmas.

A statement from the company said that the inquiry had found no evidence of corruption. But Mr Harrison had been responsible for "errors of judgment and slackness of control" over his expenses, improper authorisation of overtime and misleading his board in the run-up to the investigation.

Gillian Shepherd, the Education Secretary, assured David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, that no compensation would be paid to Mr Harrison for the loss of his £75,000-a-year post. The chief executive had been dismissed "for conduct that has brought himself and the company into disrepute", Mrs Shepherd said.

The investigation was launched last year after Stephen Byers, a Labour Whip, passed a dossier on Mr Harrison's management to the National Audit Office. Among the contents was an internal auditors' report showing that the chief executive had spent £330 in two months on spirits for the boardroom, more than £60

on cigars and £82.80 for tickets to a Dire Straits concert.

The report said that Mr Harrison had celebrated his secretary's birthday by taking her and his wife to lunch at an hotel at Loch Lomond in a chauffeur-driven car. On another occasion, he had sanctioned entertainment costing £470 at a cricket match.

Colin Ward, the assistant managing director, who has assumed control of the loans operation, said: "This was not a major loss to the taxpayer: hundreds of pounds were involved. It was more a behavioural issue."

Mr Harrison has been the subject of intense criticism over the company's administration of student loans. There was a backlog of several weeks for repeat applications and telephone lines to the company were jammed when 35,000 students were left without loans over Christmas.

Previously a management consultant and banker in Canada, Mr Harrison had run the Government's loans programme from its inception in 1990. He presided over a rapid increase in the proportion of students taking out loans.

The well-publicised controversy over Mr Harrison's expenses coincided both with the delays and with the first prosecutions of former students for non-payment. The National Union of Students said: "It was particularly cruel for students to read those things when large numbers of them were in real hardship."

Mr Harrison, who is now working in a restaurant in

Largs, Strathclyde, has a week to lodge an appeal. The results of the investigation are to be reported to the National Audit Office and the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee.

Mr Blunkett called for a thorough review of maintenance funding and the "fiasco" of the Student Loans Company. He welcomed Mrs Shepherd's announcement but said that the allegations should have been investigated more quickly.

Sir Eric Ash, the former Rector of Imperial College, London, who took over as acting chief executive when Mr Harrison stepped down, is to continue in the post until a permanent appointment is made. He said yesterday: "This has been an opportunity for a lot of mud-throwing, which has not helped the company. My advice now has been to make sure that everything works like clockwork."

Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat education spokesman, said: "Replacing the management will not end the institutional problems suffered by a scheme that is both unfair to students and bureaucratic to administer."

However, Mr Ward said the company had cleared its backlog of applications, and had issued almost 400,000 loans since last September, compared with 430,000 in the whole of the last academic year. The forecast of 520,000 loans by the end of 1994-95 would mean that for the first time a majority of eligible students had used the scheme.

Fake theft of horsebox 'arranged by Hatton'

By KATE ALDERSON

DEREK HATTON set up the bogus theft of a £45,000 horsebox and then made a false insurance claim on it, a court was told yesterday.

Manchester Crown Court heard that the former deputy leader of Liverpool City Council removed the motorised horsebox after falling behind with monthly £800 loan repayments on the F-registered vehicle. Mr Hatton, 47, and David Godsell, of Manchester, have denied theft and deception.

Both men are accused of stealing the oak-panelled horsebox, belonging to a finance company, between January and April 1994. It was fitted with living quarters, shower, central heating, microwave, television and video.

Mr Hatton, a former Labour councillor from Wavertree, Liverpool, who runs his own promotions company, is also charged with attempting to obtain monies from the Norwich Union by falsely claiming the horsebox had been stolen. Mr Godsell is accused of aiding and abetting the alleged deception.

Peter Openshaw, for the prosecution, told the jury that in 1993 Mr Hatton had defaulted on an agreement to pay monthly instalments. In January 1994, repossession agents were sent to recover the vehicle, which had been moved to Mr Godsell's workshop.

"It had hopelessly broken down, the engine had been taken out and it was in part dismantled," said Mr Openshaw. The agents by mischance failed to identify the horsebox.

The next day, Mr Hatton and Mr Godsell reported that



Derek Hatton arriving at Manchester Crown Court. He denies theft and deception

the horsebox had been stolen. The inference to be drawn from all the circumstances was that "these two men, acting together, dishonestly reported a sham theft", Mr Openshaw said. The horsebox was moved secretly to another

yard and concealed. Mr Hatton then claimed from the insurance company the value of the vehicle, which he assessed as being £45,000. It was discovered in a dealer's yard in April.

Mr Hatton's insurance

claim to Norwich Union described the horsebox's condition as "excellent" despite the fact that the engine was removed and the gear box was supported by a wooden beam, Mr Openshaw said. The trial continues.

Watchdog criticises plugging on GMTV

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

GMTV, the breakfast broadcaster, has been criticised by television watchdogs for plugging brand-name goods on its programmes.

The Independent Television Commission has ruled that the company was wrong to give undue prominence to products bearing the Walt Disney brand name in several editions of its *Saturday Disney* and *Disney Club* programmes for children between October and December last year.

Although the ITC received no complaints from viewers about the issue, it took action because of important regulatory principles: the Walt Disney company is a 25 per cent shareholder in GMTV.

In a separate ruling the ITC, which licenses and regulates commercial television, criticised the breakfast television company for plugging toys based on the *Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers* children's programme.

A spokeswoman for GMTV said: "All of our programmes are produced independently and we really have no direct interest in promoting these goods."

The rulings follow a campaign by the ITC against the growing practice of unjustified "product placement" and plugging on commercial programmes. Last week it launched an advertising campaign to encourage viewers to lodge official complaints against television companies which give undue prominence to brand-name products in their shows. In December it fined Granada Television £500,000 for plugging products on its *This Morning* programme.

Computer games hook children

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

SOME children become addicted to computer games, playing for at least 30 hours a week, a conference in London was told yesterday.

Dr Mark Griffiths of the University of Plymouth said that the 30-hour total was exceeded by 7 per cent of a sample of 387 children aged between 12 and 16.

"Anyone interested in the healthy social and educational development of children should be concerned by this statistic," he told the conference at the National Children's Bureau. "Whether the games are inherently good or bad is not the most pertinent question. The question we should be asking is what the effect of any activity that takes up 30 hours of leisure time a week has on the educational and social development of children and adolescents."

Elizabeth Sturtz, a teacher and specialist in children's play, said that they took violent electronic games intensely seriously. There was "total involvement with the killer. They appeared to lose all sense of reality."

Traditional children's games were being abandoned. In a survey of 500 children, she found that computer games involving fighting were the unanimous favourites.

Most of the popular games involved killing, she said. "Not only is the player instructed to kill, but is shown a wide range of weapons with which to carry this out. It is told how to use everyday objects, as well as learning all the relevant punches, kicks, chops, hair-pulling and similar strategies."

Leeson asks judge for extradition to Britain

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, IN FRANKFURT

NICK LEESON, the man accused of bringing down Barings bank, told a German judge yesterday that he wanted to be sent to England. His desperate request to avoid extradition to Singapore was made during a 25-minute hearing in a basement cell of the courthouse in Frankfurt.

The German Justice Ministry has already asked diplomats to examine prison conditions and the legal system in Singapore before a decision is taken on sending Mr Leeson back to South-East Asia. But Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, could be left in charge of Mr Leeson's fate if Britain also asks for his extradition, a prosecutor predicted yesterday.

Mr Leeson's German lawyer appealed for witnesses in Barings to contact him as he tries to save his client from a potential seven-year sentence in Changi jail. The 28-year-old futures dealer was woken before dawn yesterday in his new cell at the remand prison in the suburb of Höchst. He was moved to the main living quarters at the weekend after spending ten days in a special unit for first-time prisoners, who are considered to need close observation to prevent suicide attempts.

Mr Leeson, wearing a dark blue shirt and windcheater jacket, was driven by van five miles to the court complex, which is ringed by dogs and armed guards because of a terrorist hearing.

The judge, Horst Wolfelner, formally read the text of a warrant holding Mr Leeson in provisional extradition custody. Mr Leeson de-

clined the opportunity to comment on the charge or raise any objections. He told the judge: "I want to reserve my defence until later on. We will wait for the papers coming from Singapore."

The judge asked Mr Leeson whether he consented to the extradition request from Singapore, which would allow a simpler and speedier procedure to remove him from Germany. Mr Leeson said he did not agree to be sent to Singapore; he wanted to be extradited to England.

There was no request for bail. Hans-Hermann Eckert, the public prosecutor for the state of Hesse, said: "An offer of bail, even a very high bail, would have no chance, for the risk of an escape of Mr Leeson to England would be too high." The state of Hesse has never before extradited anybody to Singapore.

The urgency with which the Singapore authorities still crave the return of Mr Leeson was reflected in early-morning messages faxed to Herr Eckert



Kemp: "I fear Britain doesn't want him"

expressing concern at British press reports suggesting the prisoner could have been freed at yesterday's meeting. Herr Eckert reassured them that this was not the case.

The Serious Fraud Office has made no further contact with the German prosecutor since March 3, the day after Mr Leeson's arrest, when a lone officer made a brief visit to Frankfurt. Britain has been in no hurry to stake an alternative claim to Mr Leeson with the Germans.

"I fear that they don't want him," said Eberhard Kemp, Mr Leeson's German lawyer. "Normally in these cases it goes very quickly. If a British request is present and it is admissible I am sure the German Government will not send him to Singapore."

"My personal impression of Mr Leeson was that he is in a good physical and psychological condition but that he is aware of the difficult legal position in which he is. He seemed concentrated."

If Britain made a rival request for extradition, Herr Kohl would be likely to take personal responsibility for the decision. "If England also sends a request it is a very difficult thing and then I think the Chancellor will be heard," said Herr Eckert.

Mr Leeson has been charged with document falsification but Singapore is allowed to change the charges during the two months it has been given by Germany to prepare its case after his arrest at Frankfurt airport. Singapore has a deadline of May 2, two months from the date of the arrest.

Bernard Levin, page 16 Business, page 25

NEWS IN BRIEF

Deadly game man cleared

Gary Brundell, 34, of Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, accused of manslaughter after his friend Charles Tier, 26, died during a game of Russian roulette, was cleared when the prosecution offered no evidence against him at Gainsborough Magistrates' Court.

Fatal shooting

Patricia Hayes, 45, who ran a fireplace company, was shot twice in the head as she slept at her home at Denton, Greater Manchester. Police believe she knew her killer.

£1.2m award

Graeme Ronchetti, 27, of Banham, Norfolk, a passenger who suffered severe injuries when a car hit a tree, was awarded £1.2 million agreed damages against the driver.

Vandal sorry

A vandal who smashed a window at an elderly woman's home in Cirencester, Gloucestershire, left a note apologising for the damage and £5 for repairs.

CORRECTIONS

□ The sample test questions in mathematics and spelling for seven-year-olds (education section, February 27) were designed for children of above-average ability, rather than for those typical of their age.

□ It was Edward Fox, not his brother James, who was photographed at the memorial service for James Befrage (March 8).

□ A photograph in Car 95 (March 4) was of an MGC, not an MGB.

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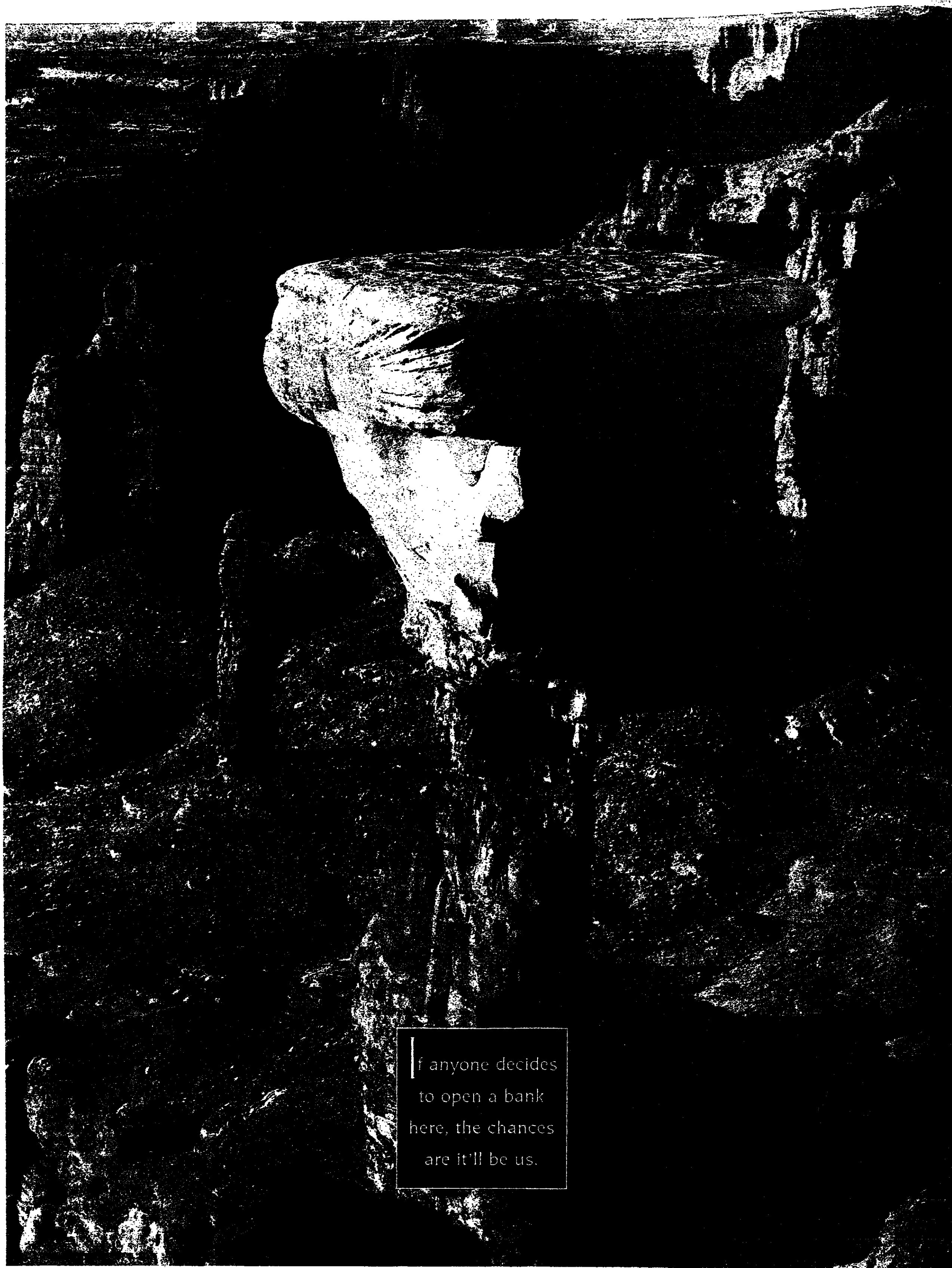
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- 2 The 1970s was a decade of social and cultural change.
- 3 The 1970s was a decade of political and environmental concern.
- 4 The 1970s was a decade of artistic and intellectual achievement.

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Clause 4: How the Left was won over in struggle to modernise the Labour Party

Persuasive Blair turned hostility into enthusiasm

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

ONLY hours after Tony Blair stunned the Labour conference last autumn with the announcement that he intended to scrap the old Clause Four, he was telling friends that he had a good idea of what to put in the new one.

Those thoughts crystallised into a speech that the Labour leader delivered in his Sedgefield constituency on January 28 as he made his nationwide tour to sell his mission to his party. Most of the principles, concepts and sentiments, even some of the words themselves, survived to be included in the modernised

version of Clause Four finally unveiled yesterday. But in the weeks since then at least six different drafts, the first drawn up about a month ago, have circulated among the tight group of advisers and senior Labour frontbenchers who helped Mr Blair and John Prescott, his deputy, to draw up a new party creed for the 21st century.

Just as a meeting last September between Mr Blair and Mr Prescott in the Labour leader's Islington home started the crusade that passed its most important milestone yesterday, so it was

another between the two men on Sunday night that put the seal on a document they hope will tell the country that Labour is at last ready for government. While Mr Blair has won plaudits for his courage in slaughtering his party's most sacred cow, his friends admit that he could not, and would not, have done it without the backing of his deputy. Ironically the two Shadow Cabinet figures who were most hostile when they first learnt of Mr Blair's intentions, Mr Prescott and Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, were the heroes of the

hour in senior Labour circles yesterday.

On that September Sunday evening, Mr Prescott first told Mr Blair that he could not be serious. It would be a diversion: the party was emotionally tied to Clause Four; and he [Mr Prescott] would be blamed by the Left. But he did not say no, and gradually he was won over.

Mr Cook was not told until the morning of Mr Blair's sensational conference coup. He was appalled and told the leader that he must be crazy. If he could have stopped it he would have. But by then it was too late. Mr Blair's speech was written.

Before long Mr Cook, too, was on Mr Blair's side and in recent weeks has been a leading figure in the campaign for change. His role in helping to swing the Scottish conference to Mr Blair's side by allowing his speech, in which he described his conversion, to be distributed to delegates was much praised yesterday.

As the touchstone phrases have been faxed and telephoned around the Shadow Cabinet offices over the past few weeks Mr Cook, Gordon Brown, David Blunkett, Clare Short, Tom Sawyer, the General Secretary, have been among those regularly consulted by Mr Blair. In the competitive world of Labour politics various people are laying claim to the authorship of the most significant phrases in the new Holy Grail. Mr Blunkett is believed to have had a hand in the ringing call for a community "in which power, wealth and opportunity are in the hands of the many not the few".

Lord "Derry" Irvine of Lairg, the Shadow Lord Chancellor and one of Mr Blair's closest friends, is understood to have played a pivotal role when the drafting got sticky. The legal and political skills of the man under whom Mr Blair served his pupillage as a barrister are reported to have broken more than one logjam.

Mr Blair's new chief of staff, the former diplomat Jonathan Powell, is also credited with



Tony Blair, announcing the new Clause Four at Labour headquarters yesterday



Tony Blair, announcing the new Clause Four at Labour headquarters yesterday

playing a big part in the smooth running of the operation, keeping the leading players informed with his minutes of discussions and ensuring that Mr Blair's door was open to contributions from his leadership colleagues. David Miliband, the policy chief, and Alastair Campbell, Mr Blair's press secretary, were in at the last on Sunday.

Although much of the focus in recent days has been on the absence of a commitment to achieve full employment, this was by no means the most controversial area. Mr Prescott told Sunday's meeting

that he was not hung up on symbols and could live with the new constitution's pledge to strive for "the opportunity for all to work and prosper".

The trickiest problem, and one which was solved to Mr Blair's satisfaction, was the abandonment of the ancient pledge on common ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange, and its replacement by the strongest ever statement of Labour's support for the mixed economy. While expressing Labour's support for

the high quality public services "where those undertakings essential to the common good are either owned by the public or accountable to them", the wording gives Mr Blair all the flexibility he needs to draw up proposals for better regulation of the public utilities rather than public ownership of them.

In the end the new Clause Four belongs to Mr Blair. Last September it was a massive gamble. Last night it was obvious that he had pulled it off.

Leading article, page 17

THE LABOUR PARTY'S NEW AIMS AND VALUES . . .

1. The Labour Party is a democratic socialist party. It believes that by the strength of our common endeavour, we achieve more than we achieve alone so as to create for each of us the means to realise our true potential and for all of us a community in which power, wealth and opportunity are in the hands of the many not the few, where the rights we enjoy reflect the duties we owe, and where we live together, freely, in a spirit of solidarity, tolerance and respect.

2. To these ends we work for:

□ a dynamic economy, serving the public interest, in which the enterprise of the market and the rigour of competition are joined with the forces of partnership and co-operation to produce the wealth the nation needs and the opportunity for all to work

and prosper, with a thriving private sector and high quality public services, where those undertakings essential to the common good are either owned by the public or accountable to them;

□ a just society, which judges its strength by the condition of the weak as much as the strong, provides security against fear, and justice at work which nurtures families, promotes equality of opportunity and delivers people from the tyranny of poverty, prejudice and the abuse of power;

□ an open democracy, in which government is held to account by the people; decisions are taken as far as practicable by the communities they affect; and where fundamental human rights are guaranteed;

□ a healthy environment,

which we protect, enhance and hold in trust for future generations.

3. Labour is committed to the defence and security of the British people, and to co-operating in European institutions, the United Nations, the Commonwealth and other international bodies to secure peace, freedom, democracy, economic security and environmental protection for all.

4. Labour will work in pursuit of these aims with trade unions, co-operative societies and other affiliated organisations, and also with voluntary organisations, consumer groups and other representative bodies.

5. On the basis of these principles, Labour seeks the trust of the people to govern.

. . . AND THE 1917 DECLARATION THAT THEY REPLACE

NATIONAL

1. To organise and maintain in Parliament and in the country a political Labour Party.

2. To co-operate with the General Council of the Trades Union Congress, or kindred organisations, in joint political or other action in harmony with the party constitution and standing orders.

3. To give effect as far as may be practicable to the principles from time to time approved by the party conference.

4. To secure for the workers by hand or by brain the full fruits of the industry and the most equitable distribution thereof that may be possible upon the

basis of the common ownership of the means of production, distribution, and exchange, and the best obtainable system of popular administration and control of each industry or service.

5. Generally to promote the political, social and economic emancipation of the people, and more particularly of those who depend directly upon their own exertions by hand or by brain for the means of life.

INTER-COMMONWEALTH

6. To co-operate with the labour and socialist organisations in the Commonwealth overseas with a view to promoting the purposes of the party, and to take common action for the

promotion of a higher standard of social and economic life for the working population of the respective countries.

INTERNATIONAL

7. To co-operate with the labour and socialist organisation in other countries and to support the United Nations Organisation and its various agencies and other international organisations for the promotion of peace, the adjustment and settlement of international disputes by conciliation or judicial arbitration, the establishment and defence of human rights, and the improvement of the social and economic standards and conditions of work of the people of the world.

So far so good, now we want to know what it means in practice

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Thomas Jefferson would have written it more elegantly. No one is going to set it to music, certainly not to the Red Flag. And only the politically obsessive are going to be arguing about its wording in the pubs and clubs tonight. But the new Clause Four — Labour's statement of aims and values — fulfils Tony Blair's main aim of marking a clean break with the past. Labour will no longer be anchored to the politics of class and the ownership of industry. It is New Labour made prose.

The new Clause Four is sharper and less evasive than might have been expected. But that is Mr Blair's style as leader. There are, admittedly, all the predictable "warm words" about solidarity, community and partnership, but that is inherent in such statements. There is, overall, remarkably little waffle. Detailed policy questions have been left for later decision. But there are no hidden commitments which Mr Blair will regret and want to dodge.

The new clause removes the existing version's obvious flaw, the unconditional commitment to "the common

ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange". Even though Labour never seriously advocated implementing the clause in its full form, a powerful weapon in the hands of Conservative Central Office to frighten voters has been removed.

The replacement wording contains no reference to either full employment or public ownership. Instead, it talks, without commitment to any target, of "the opportunity for all to work and prosper" and of "a thriving private sector and high quality public services, where those undertakings essential to the common good are either owned by the public or accountable to them". It leaves a role for the Government working together with industry. Howard Davies of the CBI would hardly dissent. In practice, this means that there is no commitment to renationalising any privatised utilities and their future will be a pragmatic matter depending on circumstances. The reference to "accountable to them" means regulation rather

than public ownership.

Other sections refer policies to "security against fear", that is fighting crime and "nurture families", that is childcare and support. The section about open democracy is intended to rule out the traditional corporatist and centralist style of government, while there are, for the first time, references to the environment and co-operating in European institutions.

Trade unions are mentioned, but they no longer have the exclusive and dominant role which they previously enjoyed in the Labour party. Instead, the unions are linked with voluntary organisations, consumer groups and other representative bodies, which could include the CBI, though the Institute of Directors might not want to be included. Some Tories, led by the most Liberal Democrats, could agree with virtually all the new clause.

What differentiates Mr Blair's thinking from, say, the traditional Tory approach is the emphasis on how much more can be achieved by

people acting together than on their own in isolation. Mr Blair believes this is a quintessentially left-of-centre principle. He also stresses the linking of rights and duties and of personal self-interest and social cohesion. This is intended to show that Labour is responsive to people's aspirations.

Mr Blair looks sure of a convincing victory at the special conference on April 29, though there could be a left-wing reaction against yesterday's draft. More important, however, is what Mr Blair does to build on the new clause. Yesterday's exercise was initially defensive in inspiration. The Tories will not get very far by claiming that nothing has really changed, especially when their own approach is still cloudy. But Labour now has to show what its new principles mean in practice: about levels of tax and spending, about the future of the utilities, and, above all, about the structure of public services like education and health. Mr Blair has so far won freedom to manoeuvre.

PETER RIDDELL

Dobson attacks cuts in environment cash

THE Government is to cut spending on environmental protection by £86 million during the next four years. Labour claimed yesterday.

Frank Dobson, the Shadow Environment Secretary, accused ministers of hiding the cuts in the Department of the Environment's annual report, published in its last week. He claimed that by publishing only the cash figures for proposed expenditure, without taking inflation into account, the DoE's figures had

produced a "misleading" impression.

According to Mr Dobson, spending on environmental protection, at present £222 million, is due to fall in real terms by £16 million in 1995-96, £32 million in 1996-97 and £38 million in 1997-98.

The National Rivers Authority will be hardest hit, losing £40 million. Spending on environmental monitoring and research is set to lose £17 million, including £3 million off air quality monitoring.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY: In the Commons, questions to Welsh ministers, Church Commissioners and the Welsh Government were followed by a debate on the Gas Bill, second reading.

In the Lords, debates were held on the Pensioners Bill and the disposal of Battersea Power Station.

TODAY: In the Commons there will be questions to health ministers and the

Prime Minister. Tony Newton, Leader of the House, will stand in for John Major, who is visiting Israel. Mr Newton will also stand in for the second reading of the Atomic Energy Authority Bill, and the Movers' Welfare Act (Transfer of Functions of Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation) Order.

The Lords will debate the Pensioners Bill and the Civil Evidence (Family Mediation) (Scotland) Bill.

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British Prime Minister's visit to Israel

Major 'climbdown' disappoints PLO

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ATTEMPTS by John Major to tip the balance of the Middle East through the minefield of diplomacy will face their severest test today when a senior British Foreign Office official rather than Douglas Hogg, the Minister of State, visits the Palestine Liberation Organisation headquarters at Orient House in East Jerusalem.

The "courtesy call" has been strongly condemned by the Israeli Government as a breach of its 18-month-old peace agreement with the PLO. But many PLO officials see the decision to send Sir Andrew Green, assistant under-secretary of state for the Middle East, rather than Mr Hogg, as a climbdown by Britain. "It is not the British bulldog style we were used to," said a senior Palestinian journalist from Bethlehem.

No mention of the visit appears in the official programme, prepared jointly by the British Embassy in Tel Aviv and the Consulate-General in Jerusalem. Conveniently for a British delegation anxious to avoid controversy, it will take place when

the large press party travelling with Mr Major is more than 50 miles away, in a coach being driven from Gaza to Tel Aviv airport.

Faisal Hussein, the senior PLO representative in east Jerusalem, was yesterday returning from Cairo to be on hand for the visit and a subsequent meeting with Mr Major at the home of Richard Dalton, the Consul-General.

Speaking on the sensitive Jerusalem question, Mr Hussein said: "The world must understand that without a solution to the issue of Jerusalem, there will not be peace. If the Palestinians get their rights, Jerusalem can be the warming sun in the Middle East. But if Palestinian rights are ignored, Jerusalem will become the black cloud that could swallow everything."

Anxious to avoid the debate of October 1990, when leading Palestinians refused to meet Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, after leaked Israeli reports that he opposed a Palestinian state, Mr Major has gone out of his way to be diplomatically correct to both sides.

Yesterday, he studied the occupied Golan Heights from a suitably distant vantage point, which meant he did not have to set foot on territory seized from Syria in 1967.

Mr Major also refused attempts by the Israelis to lure him into the annexed old city of Jerusalem. When Norma Major, the Prime Minister's wife, visits occupied Bethlehem today, including a trip to the squalid Daheishe refugee camp, she will deliberately go without any Israeli protection.

On the Israeli side, the positive press reaction to Mr Major's visit showed that his gestures had paid off. But many Arabs remained critical of what they complained was a refusal to stand up strongly enough against the continuing expansion of Jewish settlements and Israeli delays in implementing the second stage of the Oslo peace deal.

Meanwhile, the Queen's first visit to the Holy Land was predicted by Israeli sources yesterday to be one likely outcome of the two-day trip, due to end tonight, when the party flies to Jordan.



John Major lays a wreath in Jerusalem yesterday at the Yad Vashem memorial to six million Jews who died in the Holocaust

Testament to the Holocaust speaks six million words

FROM ARTHUR LEATHLEY IN JERUSALEM

THE contrast of the harrowing, spectacular, and hauntingly simple brought John Major face to face yesterday with the troubles which have tormented the people of Israel.

A hectic four-day visit to the Middle East was interrupted by a period of quiet reflection as the Prime Minister paid tribute to the suffering endured by Jews. Mr Major was visibly moved by Israel's strikingly poignant monument to the six million Jews killed by Nazi Germany.

He emerged downcast from the Yad Vashem complex, or "Everlasting Memorial", in Jerusalem, which has become Israel's most celebrated testament to its peoples' turbulent past. Mr Major and his wife Norma appeared, especially touched by their visit to the memorial dedicated to children, a starkly simple monument in which the names of 1.5 million Jewish children, who perished in the Holocaust, are recited continuously.

The Prime Minister's pledge that he would never forget the moment was reflected in his entry in the visitor's book — "Those who forget the past will be condemned to relive it."

The composed mood of the visit offered only temporary respite in a whistle-stop tour aimed at bolstering Middle East peace negotiations and opening a new phase of commercial and industrial activity between Britain and the region.

But a helicopter flight to the north of Israel quickly reminded Mr Major of the barriers that lie ahead in the Middle East peace process. As he soared over the Golan Heights, accompanied by Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Major

viewed the spectacular scenery surrounding the strip of occupied land that Israel seized from Syria in 1967, and which is a key part of future negotiations to reach peace with Damascus.

Today, Mr Major will continue his efforts to promote closer ties between Israelis, Palestinians and neighbouring countries when he visits Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman, in Gaza, and King Hussein of Jordan in Amman.

The Prime Minister's visit to the PLO headquarters in Palestinian-ruled Gaza has been criticised by right-wing Israelis. But the Israeli Government has supported Mr Major's move as helping to give the PLO leader greater credibility in his attempt to win the backing of Palestinian extremists.

□ Damascus: Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, expressed hope that stalled negotiations may be resumed between Israel and Syria after meeting for five hours yesterday with President Assad of Syria. He told reporters here he would return to Israel after a brief stop in Jordan, then return to the Syrian capital today for more talks with Mr Assad.

Later in Amman, he said security issues were "among the most difficult" to resolve. He said he was not making a judgment whether Israel should withdraw from the Golan Heights. "It is not my judgment to make," Mr Christopher added.

At their meeting yesterday, Mr Christopher and Mr Assad concentrated on possible security arrangements to be installed if Israel should withdraw from the Golan. (AP)



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Can it really be this easy?

Art of the state finds champion in Prince

BY ANJANA AHUJA

AS THE Prince of Wales captures the hearts of his Egyptian hosts, Emma Sergeant will be busy capturing scenes of Cairo life on canvas. The 36-year-old painter joins a long list of artistic notables who have accompanied the Prince on tours abroad since 1985. The roll of honour includes John Ward, Martin Yeoman and Edmund Fairfax-Lucy.

Prospective companions are selected by the Prince himself, who also meets their travel costs. "This is something the Prince of Wales has done for a number of years. He is particularly interested in art and the artist is really there to record certain aspects of the country. They are not there to paint him or paint with him," an aide said.

According to Buckingham Palace, the Prince is maintaining a tradition dating back to Queen Victoria. Artists are not commissioned to produce a set number of pieces but paint according to "artistic value".

Instead of trailing the royal party every day, Miss Sergeant will set her own artistic agenda. She is not expected to appear at formal lunches and dinners but will accompany the Prince of Wales if the function holds artistic promise, such as a street walkabout. Back in Britain, the



Sergeant to pursue her own artistic agenda

results will be exhibited and then sold. "The Prince himself may even purchase one," commented the aide.

As a former companion of the cricketer Imran Khan, who has rejected a well-documented playboy lifestyle to become a modern champion of Islam in Pakistan, Miss Sergeant is suited to this tour. The Prince has made the harmonisation of Islam and Christianity a constant theme of his visit, since addressing the issue in a well-received speech in 1993.

Professionally, Miss Sergeant is best known for her society portraits. A recipient of the prestigious BT Portrait Award in 1981, her paintings of Lord Olivier and Sir Christopher Cockerell now hang in the National Portrait Gallery in London. Her last exhibition — a collection of paintings on a mythological theme entitled *Orpheus and the Underworld* — was a sell-out.

Soccer chief alleges Tapie ordered bribe

FROM REUTER IN VALENCIENNES

A FOOTBALL club secretary told a court yesterday that Bernard Tapie, the French tycoon, had ordered him to bribe league opponents to lose a key league match in 1993.

Jean-Pierre Bernes, general secretary of the Marseilles club at the time and M Tapie's former right-hand man, said on the first day of their trial in Valenciennes that M Tapie was behind the attempt to bribe Valenciennes players to throw the game, six days before Marseilles won the European Cup.

"There was an attempt at bribery on my part, on Bernard Tapie's orders," said Jean-Jacques Eydelie, the intermediary, M Bernes told the court.

M Tapie, 52, a rags-to-riches businessman, is one of six suspects facing up to three years in jail if convicted of fixing a 1993 league match between his club, Olympic

Marseilles, and Valenciennes. Marseilles was later stripped of its league and European titles. He denies the charges.

M Tapie clashed repeatedly with Judge Bernard Langlade, and the judge warned him three times and threatened to expel him from the courtroom after the former Cabinet minister interrupted the reading of the charge sheet, answered back and disrupted the evidence.

"Ever since you entered this courtroom, you have tried to sow disruption," the judge told him. "If that is your method of defence, I will not accept it. I envisage expelling you," he said. M Tapie subsided.

The trial, which is one of several corruption cases to come to court in the midst of a presidential election campaign, is expected to last ten days. It has aroused almost as much interest in France as the C.J. Simpson murder case has in America.

is OJ guilty?



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EU Ambassadors hint at trade sanctions unless Ottawa releases Spanish vessel

Europe suspends dialogue in fish war with Canada

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS

IN A further escalation in the "fishing war" between the European Union and Canada, European Ambassadors yesterday decided to suspend all political dialogue with Canada, until the Ottawa Government releases unconditionally a Spanish trawler captured last week in international waters off the coast of Newfoundland.

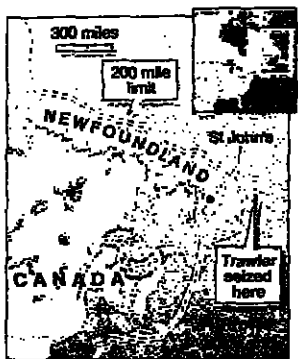
The Spanish Government is considering sending a frigate to the north Atlantic to protect its fishing fleet against further assaults by Canadian patrol boats. Javier Solana, the Spanish Foreign Minister, yesterday also indicated that Spain may cut diplomatic relations with Canada.

Señor Solana said that Spain had started proceedings to put the case to the International Court of Justice in The Hague, and stopped all official visits between Spain and Canada.

Last week a Canadian patrol boat shot several bursts of machinegun fire across the bows of the *Estai*, a Spanish trawler, before officials arrested and charged the vessel's captain and towed the trawler to a Canadian port. At the time of the attack, the *Estai* was fishing in international waters, 245 nautical miles away from Canada. The European Commission reiterated yesterday that Canada's seizure of the vessel constituted "an act of organised piracy".

After an emergency meeting of EU diplomats, Dietrich von Knyew, the German Ambassador to the EU, said yesterday

that "we have decided to block the dialogue with Canada in all areas, until the *Estai* is freed." The 24 crew members are already free to leave. The EU Ambassadors decided not to impose economic sanctions on Canada for the time being, although failure by Canada to release the trawler is bound to trigger further action. As a first step, the EU suspended a scientific agreement with Canada last week. Emma Bonino, the European Fisheries Commis-



sioner, yesterday hinted at trade sanctions in a terse statement in which she said that "the EU will examine its relations with Canada, and study all possible measures, without any exception." She called on Canada to return to the group of nations respecting international law.

The EU is still evaluating the impact of eventual trade sanctions, especially the damage to European exporters. Since Europe runs an annual trade surplus with Canada - amounting to £465 million in

1993 - trade sanctions could harm the Europeans more than the Canadians.

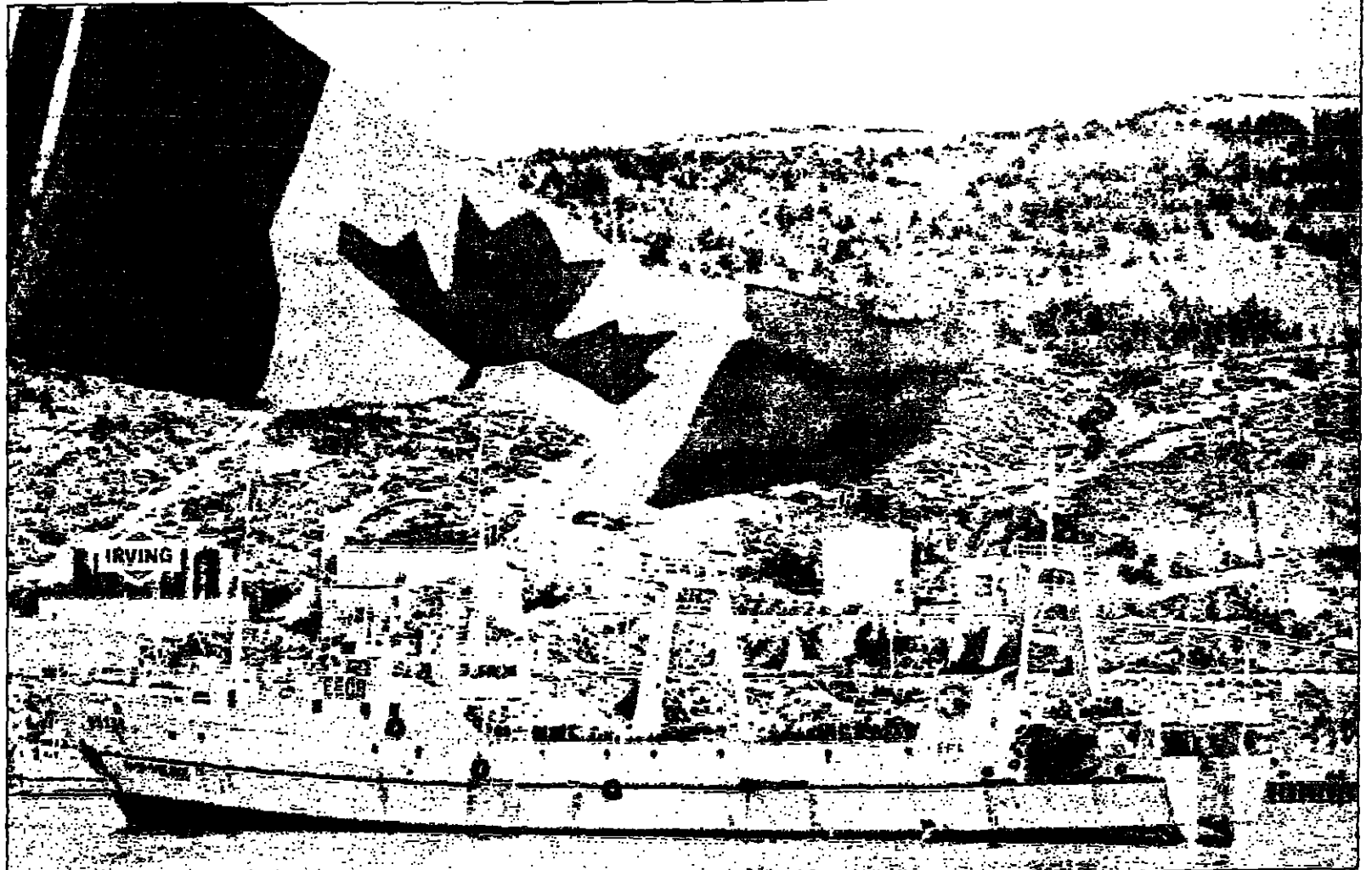
Canada claims that the EU has exceeded its official quota of Greenland halibut, also known as turbot, considered to be a threatened species. Through recently introduced domestic legislation, the Canadian authorities have empowered themselves to police international waters to prevent the exploitation of scarce fishing stocks in the north Atlantic. The EU says that Canadian domestic legislation contravenes international maritime law.

The North-West Fisheries Organisation, an international body, last month voted to reduce the total catch of Greenland halibut, setting quotas that triple Canada's allowance and reducing the EU share to less than one tenth of last year's catch.

The EU has registered an official objection to these new quotas. Speaking at the United Nations social summit in Copenhagen, Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, said: "This is, in fact, a trade dispute, which like all trade disputes has to be treated seriously but which cannot be solved by violating international law."

Jean Chrétien, Canada's Prime Minister, has steadfastly supported the strong-arm tactics employed by Brian Tobin, his Fishing Minister, to prevent European trawlers from fishing near Canadian international waters.

Leading article, page 17



The Spanish trawler *Estai* preparing to dock at St John's harbour in Newfoundland: her seizure by Canada is an act of piracy, says the EU

Eggs fly as trawler skipper is freed on bail

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN ST JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND

THE captain of a Spanish trawler seized in international waters in a dispute over fishing quotas was released on bail by a judge here.

The captain of the 200 ft *Estai* had been escorted by Canadian ships to the port in this Newfoundland fishing town, to find about 6,000 people at the dock shouting angrily at him and his crew.

Others threw eggs at Enrique Davila González, the skipper, and José-Luis Pardo, Spain's Ambassador to Ottawa, who were escorted to the court by officials from Canada's Fishing Minis-

try. One of the eggs smashed against a wall while another struck Hans-Günther Sulimma, the German Ambassador, who was accompanied by Alfred Siefer-Gaillardin, the French Ambassador, and John Beck, the representative of the European Union.

Señor González was charged with illegal fishing, refusal to comply with a summons and dumping the catch while trying to elude Canadian authorities. He was freed on bail of Can\$8,000 (£3,600).

Earlier, Spain dispatched a second warship to international waters off Newfoundland following the seizure of the *Estai* last Thursday by Canadian coastguards in which shots were fired. Javier

Solana, the Spanish Foreign Minister, told David Wright, Canada's Ambassador to Spain, that Madrid plans to take the dispute before several international bodies, including the International Court of Justice.

A first Spanish warship was dispatched to the area on Friday. Señor Solana said a second was being sent to protect the 17 other Spanish fishing boats in the region of the Grand Banks, more than 200 miles off Newfoundland.

The dispute began in February when the North-West Fisheries Organisation decided to drastically reduce the turbot quota, which the EU fishing industry refused to accept.



González: dumped fish

Salinas flees as Mexico slides deeper into economic mire

BY DAVID ADAMS, LATIN AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

AS MEXICO'S political and economic woes deepen, Jesusa Rodríguez, a satirist, is pulling large audiences to the crowded, smoky theatre where she performs a nightly routine tailored to the day's events.

Dressed to look like Carlos Salinas de Gortari, the former President, she fields a barrage of questions from an angry audience who demand an explanation to the economic crisis that is tearing apart the country's social fabric. "The people's decision is: send Salinas to prison!", they shout.

In a country where politicians have long enjoyed virtual immunity from prosecution, Mexicans now want someone to be held accountable for the corrupt and incompetent handling of the economy. Señor Salinas has left the country and his brother, Raúl, has been arrested for his alleged role in a murder conspiracy.

The whereabouts of Señor Salinas remained unknown yesterday after he was reported to have flown out at the weekend with his wife and three children. The Mexican media had speculated that the Harvard-educated Señor Salinas would move to the United States, at least for the next few years. He has some work there, having been named to the board of directors of Dow

Jones in January. But the White House said it did not have any information about the whereabouts of Señor Salinas and could not confirm he was in the United States.

Mexico is in the midst of one of its worst periods of instability in recent history, a shocking turnaround for a country which until only a few weeks ago, prided itself with being on the threshold of First World status. Despite last month's \$50 billion (£31 billion) economic aid package from Washington and the lending banks, the country has been plunged into recession. About 750,000 jobs are expected to be lost by the summer, more than all the full-time manufactur-



Salinas: might have flown to America

ing jobs created during the six years of the Salinas Government, which ended in December.

Last week the Government of President Zedillo delivered a drastic economic shock, announcing a plan to stabilise the economy by cutting spending and raising taxes. The price of petrol rose 35 per cent, electricity went up 20 per cent and VAT by 50 per cent.

Wall Street reacted favourably and the peso has recaptured some lost ground. Fernando Ortiz, the Finance Minister, is expected in New York tomorrow to explain the austerity plan to Wall Street. He hopes to mend fences with investors who have lost confidence - along with a lot of money - in Mexico. "All we're asking for now is a truce to show that this is going to work," he said.

With interest rates as high as 90 per cent on mortgages, credit cards and car loans, businesses are going bankrupt, and families have fallen heavily into debts they cannot repay. A banking collapse could be approaching. The Government has taken control of one of several banks teetering on the brink of bankruptcy. Other banks are planning to lay off 20 per cent of their workforces as inflation looks set to go above 40 per cent.

Even before the onset of the economic crisis last December, some banks were having trouble. The top dozen banks reported a combined 63 per cent drop in end-of-year earnings.

A leading economist, Rogelio Ramírez de la O, predicts one in five Mexican banks will not survive the crisis and urges that the whole banking and financial sector needs restructuring. Officials admit that the hardship caused by the new plan will severely test an already strained political system which is still reeling from a series of upheavals involving two political assassinations and an unresolved peasant uprising in the southern state of Chiapas.

At the very least the crisis will cost the Institutional Revolutionary Party any chance it may have had in four provincial elections this year. Last month the party lost the governorship of Jalisco to the opposition National Action Party in its worst defeat in more than 60 years in power. Some even speculate that President Zedillo may be forced from office.

What does Señor Zedillo have in common with Easter? asks a popular joke. Answer: he could fall in March or April.



North: aims to espouse 'traditional values'

Oliver North gets his own radio show

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

OLIVER NORTH yesterday joined the ranks of American politicians who find a new life talking on the radio after defeat or retirement.

His three-hour programme, a mixture of guests and call-ins, went on the air in Washington with the former Marine Corps colonel and Iran-Contra figure saying his aim was to promulgate conservatism and traditional values.

Mr North, who is not too happy with fellow Republicans in control of Capitol Hill, is said to be keeping to the fore in preparation for another run for national office.

Senators line up to challenge Clinton in Democratic race

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON lacked political convictions and would almost certainly be challenged for the Democrats' 1996 presidential nomination, a senior Democratic Senator said yesterday.

"There will certainly be a fringe challenge and there may be a mainstream challenge," Paul Simon of Illinois told the *Washington Times*. "He might very well be challenged by one of my colleagues." He named Senators Bob Kerrey of Nebraska and Bill Bradley of New Jersey as the most likely candidates.

Mr Simon, himself a presidential candidate in 1984, blamed Mr Clinton's predicament on his failure to stand up for his beliefs. "I think the smartest thing the President could do is get rid of the pollsters in the office," he said. "He has to reach within himself to find out who Bill Clinton really is and to fight for it and forget the pollsters."

Deterring challengers is now "the first order of business" at the White House, according to one senior presidential aide, and is actually driving policy. In recent days Mr Clinton has sought to shore up his standing with the party's traditional constituencies by proposing an increase

in the minimum wage, barring government contractors to companies that hire replacement workers during strikes, and - to please the Irish-American lobby - letting Sinn Féin's Gerry Adams raise funds in America.

Jesse Jackson, the civil rights leader, is the Democrat threatening openly to run, and Mr Clinton has been forced to stand by Henry Foster, his embattled black nominee for the post of surgeon-general, lest he give Mr Jackson an excuse to challenge him.

Despite the battering the President has suffered, his strategists are far from despondent about his chances of winning re-election in what will be the last campaign of a career spent running for office.

They argue that Mr Clinton's prospects will look better when he is running against a named Republican rather than an ideal Republican, particularly if the opponent is an arch-conservative such as Phil Gramm, the Texas senator. They also argue that the President is establishing himself in the public's mind as a bulwark against the excesses of the new Republican Congress and a defender of moderation and reasonableness.

Militants cut girl's throat at school

Tunis Suspected Muslim militants in Algeria have murdered four young women, including one who was pregnant and a teenager who was killed outside school, Algerian media reported yesterday. Six gunmen dragged Ghodbane Fatima, 15, from her school, south of Algiers, and slit her throat. Karima and Amel Guedjali were shot dead at their home in front of their father by three men. (Reuters)

Istanbul clash

Istanbul: Four people died and 12 were hurt in clashes between police and Alawites in Istanbul's Gazi district. Earlier, two Alawites were killed in a suspected attack by extremists. (AFP)

Militia pact

Mogadishu: Somalia's rival militias have begun joint patrols of the capital, putting into action an accord that would keep other gunmen out and offer security for foreigners, witnesses said. (Reuters)

Khomeini coma

Tehran: Ahmad Khomeini, the son of Ayatollah Khomeini, founder of the Islamic republic, was declared brain-dead after a heart attack. Khomeini, 50, made his anti-Western views public. (AFP)

Deadly feud

Kigali: Two Zambian UN peacekeepers in Rwanda killed each other at battalion headquarters in Gikongoro, in an incident described by the UN special envoy as a personal feud. (Reuters)

Dress reversal

Milan: Chorus singers at La Scala were booed by the audience for wearing jumpers and jeans in the opening act of the opera *Mefistofele* as part of a protest over pay and conditions. (Reuters)

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France welcomes Castro in from cold

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

PRESIDENT CASTRO savoured the moment yesterday as an honour guard saluted and President Mitterrand greeted him at the Elysée Palace on a trip to Paris that the Cuban leader depicted as the end of 36 years of diplomatic isolation for his country.

Señor Castro, in a dark suit rather than his usual uniform, basked in the red-carpet welcome offered by M Mitterrand at the start of a three-day visit organised by his wife Danielle, a left-wing activist. Lunching with M Mitterrand, an effusive Señor Castro said: "When I touched French soil this morning, I said to myself 'That's it. The apartheid is over.' Although technically private, the trip is being seen as a parting gesture of sympathy by the outgoing Socialist President towards a revolutionary still seen as a hero by some of the French Left. The high-level welcome is also an act of French independence in the face of the embargo imposed by President Kennedy. The same motive was ascribed to Philippe Séguin, the Gaullist parliamentary Speaker, who also invited Señor Castro to a meeting yesterday. French business leaders will meet *à l'Élysée* today. France, like other

European states, is eager to win a share of business if the Castro Government opens the economy or is followed by a new regime.

Although Señor Castro, 68, has visited Spain twice and spent the weekend at the Copenhagen summit on poverty, no leading power had invited him since he installed his Communist state after the overthrow of the Batista administration in 1959. His lunchtime words, reported by M Mitterrand's spokesman, did not please critics who were angered by the President's gesture towards the old revolutionary only a week after the United Nations Human Rights Commission condemned the Cuban Government for denying basic rights to its people. Alain Juppé, the Gaullist Foreign Minister, rounded on Mme Mitterrand for stating on Sunday that Señor Castro "is no dictator".

M Juppé said: "He has been one, and when you have been one, it is hard to get rid of that, if I judge by the situation of human rights in Cuba today. We consider that Cuba must make progress towards democracy and respect for human rights, which are not respected as they should be."

Cuban exiles demonstrated outside the headquarters of the Unesco, where the Cuban leader denounced the

"criminal blockade" against his country. "They could not forgive our rebellion," he said. He also warned of the dangers of a "unipolar world" dominated by the United States. A spokesman for the main association of Cuban residents said: "Mme Mitterrand's sensitivity to human rights violations is filtered through her



Castro: acknowledges the crowd on leaving the Elysée yesterday

ideology." Mme Mitterrand has made a series of visits to the Caribbean island, which she describes as a victim of American imperialism. On Sunday, she said the American embargo was "the greatest international injustice I have ever seen".

Her husband has taken a more measured line, calling the embargo "stupid", but also criticising Havana. In Copenhagen, he said he hoped that the invitation would encourage "real liberty" in Cuba.

For the old Communist, a chance to visit France was almost as emotional as his pilgrimage to his ancestral roots in Spain in 1992. An admirer of Robespierre, the young Castro was inspired by the ideals of French thinkers and fighters. The day began on a high note when he was whisked by motorcade to the Hotel Marigny, the mansion near the Elysée Palace where state visitors are lodged.

Press reaction has been mixed. *Le Monde* said that M Mitterrand's act was a reflection of a changed attitude and one that President Clinton would like to make. The conservative *Figaro*, however, called the trip a bitter victory: "The last Marxist dinosaur, brought down to the rank of travelling salesman for his staggering island, has come to hold out a begging bowl."

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Kabul Shia leader killed as battle for city intensifies

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT, AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

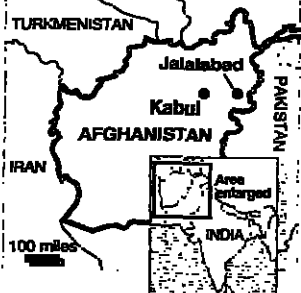
The leader of Afghanistan's opposition Shia Hezb-i-Wahdat faction, Abdul Ali Mazari, was killed yesterday while being held captive by the Taliban student militia, the Government and Taliban reported last night.

Government sources said Mazari died in a helicopter crash while being transported to an unknown destination from the Taliban base at Charasyab, south of Kabul, the capital. But a Taliban spokesman said the Shia leader was killed in a fight with his captors after the helicopter made an emergency landing in the militia-controlled eastern province of Ghazni.

Government commanders monitoring Taliban communications said Mazari and 14 other people on board the helicopter had died. Mazari was earlier reported to have been captured by Taliban at his Karte Seh enclave in southwestern Kabul. A Western journalist said on Sunday he had photographed Mazari, bound hand and foot, at Charasyab on Saturday.

The Taliban spokesman told a BBC reporter that Mazari had grabbed a machinegun from one of his captors during the flight and shot and wounded the pilot, forcing the helicopter to make an emergency landing. Mazari and several other passengers were killed in the skirmish that ensued, he said. Reports of the killings came as Afghan government warplanes and artillery pounded positions held by Taliban south of Kabul. The assault seemed to be a prelude for a ground attack to drive the invaders beyond shelling range of the capital.

Taliban has been menacing the city for weeks after seizing Charasyab from forces of the Pashtun extremist, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who had rocketed the city for three years in an attempt to seize it from Tajik control. Government tanks and infantry were last night



forces for the first time since the city came under Tajik control three years ago. Taliban, a Pashtun group, has occupied one third of Afghan territory in the past seven or eight months and has told the Government to step down in Kabul or be driven out. Taliban is heavily armed with weapons captured from Mr Hekmatyar and other warlords.

The group has enforced a strict Islamic code in areas it controls. In Kandahar, its headquarters in southern Afghanistan, it has started severing the hands and feet of criminals. Chess, karate, television, popular music and soccer have been banned. Women have been forced into full-length veils, and young

men have been ordered to cut their hair short.

Taliban was welcomed by Kandahar's 250,000 residents last October when it defeated several militias that had terrorised the city for years, but its repressive policies are increasingly resented. There have been examples of extreme punishment: a young couple accused of pre-marital sex was beaten publicly, and an accused thief was paraded around the town, his hands tied, after having his face blackened.

In another incident a murderer was sentenced to die at the hand of the victim's wife. She shot at him with a rifle but missed. A Taleb immediately stepped forward to administer the fatal shot. Kabul, traditionally a comparatively liberated city, fears that Taliban would introduce similar practices in the capital if it seized power.

Despite Taliban's extremist tendencies, Kandahar is enjoying its greatest peace in 14 years. The students' army has strict rules against plunder, and the city is largely free of crime. The group is primarily funded by traders in Afghanistan and Pakistan, who want to open trade routes to Central Asia.

Taliban has recruited many experienced former commanders of Mujahidin groups that fought the occupation of the former Soviet Union, giving it formidable military expertise. Wakil Ahmad, a member of the 30-man Taliban shura (governing council), said in Kandahar: "We do not receive money or other support from foreign countries. Our soldiers are not paid. We are funded by traders and landowners."

He added that Taliban did not believe in giving women more rights than the Koran laid down. "If we capture Kabul, women will not be allowed to work in offices. Their jobs will be taken over by men."



Richard Nixon, whose portrayal is lambasted as "absolute, total and utter nonsense". Anthony Hopkins, right, is expected play the part

Nixon film 'fantasy' outrages historians

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

NEVER one to let facts stand in the way of a good conspiracy theory, Oliver Stone, the Hollywood director, is working on a film version of the life of the late Richard Nixon which portrays the former president as the organiser of a hit-squad which assassinated John Kennedy.

Mr Stone's 1991 film *JFK* was savaged by many critics for its meagre grasp of historical accuracy, but his newest project makes the earlier film appear almost realistic by comparison, according to American magazines which have obtained early copies of the script.

In the draft of *Nixon*, which is expected to star Anthony Hopkins, the British actor, the then Vice-President Nixon sets up an assassination team of Cubans, CIA agents, Mafia crooks and right-wing businessmen to kill President Castro of Cuba. The mission is never accomplished and instead, the

hit-squad turns renegade and winds up murdering JFK, according to Mr Stone's bizarre version of events.

J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI Director, subsequently threatens to disclose Nixon's role in the assassination, with the result that the president erases 18 minutes from the Watergate tapes to hide his involvement.

He is eventually forced into resigning, however, by Alexander Haig, the then White House Chief of Staff, who suggests that an "unnamed second party" has a pristine copy of the erased tape.

A preface to the screenplay of *Nixon* admits that the story is based on "incomplete historical findings", while "some scenes between protagonists have been imagined". The script has prompted a fresh wave of outrage from historians who have accused the director of again indulging in the purest make-believe.



Herbert Parmet, the New York historian and author of *Richard Nixon and His America*, described the script as "absolute, total and utter nonsense... There's never been any hint of any of that. I guess they waited until he died to come out with this nonsense."

Mr Stone, whose latest film, *Natural Born Killers*, provoked anger on both sides of the Atlantic with its tale of two merry serial killers, has so far refused to discuss the script.

According to *Newsweek* magazine, America's 37th President emerges from the film treatment as "a pill-popping, Scotch-swilling, epithet-spewing" emotional weakling, and "a misunderstood, but largely innocent victim of evil forces".

Mr Stone's Nixon is victimised by his mother and haunted by the memory of Alger Hiss, the alleged communist spy. Even Nixon's sex life

is the subject of wild speculation. In one scene, described by *Time* magazine, "an amorous Pat Nixon" is rejected by the president with the words: "I'm not Jack Kennedy."

Many cinema-goers may feel that the character envisaged by Mr Stone is not Richard Milhous Nixon either.

In the draft script, written by Steve Rivele and Chris Wilkinson, the plot to assassinate Dr Castro is known by the code-name "Track 2", while the Bay of Pigs is "Track 1". In the course of the screenplay the White House is also blackmailed by E. Howard Hunt, one of the Watergate burglars, who supposedly worked under Nixon on "Track 2", and threatens to tell all unless he is paid off.

Not content with one assassination plot, the script also "implies that Hoover has some foreknowledge of Robert Kennedy's assassination". *Time* Magazine reported this week.

Seoul MPs besiege parliament

FROM AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE IN SEOUL

OPPOSITION legislators yesterday laid siege to South Korea's parliament to prevent the ruling camp from pushing through controversial electoral law reforms.

The sit-in at the national assembly followed police raids on Sunday to free the Speaker, Hwang Nak-Ju and his deputy, Lee Han-Dong, who had been held virtual hostages in their homes by opposition lawmakers for six days.

A Speaker is required by law to preside over the passage of any legislation through the 290-member, one-chamber assembly.

The ruling Democratic Liberal Party, which is superior in numbers, has threatened to railroad a revised election law through parliament unless the opposition presents a compromise proposal. The DLP hopes to bar candidates for mid-level administrative positions and councils from belonging to political groups, except in big cities.

Ruling party leaders contend that electoral law changes are necessary for clean campaigning in local polls in June for provincial governors, mayors and county heads.

But the opposition has accused the DLP of seeking to maintain its grip on local governments and assemblies.



Los Alamitos: Fred Roberts, 99, stands to attention after receiving a Purple Heart almost eight decades after he was gassed during the Battle of the Marne in the First World War. "I feel great. It's great to be an American," Mr Roberts said on Sunday at a ceremony at the Armed Forces

Reserve Centre here in California. As a band played *Stars and Stripes Forever*, Major General Stephen Bisset, head of the 63rd US Army Reserve Command, pinned the prestigious decoration to the former corporal's chest. The delay was due to a mixup in army records. (AP)

Former president held after Nigeria coup plot foiled

FROM AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE IN LAGOS

THE Nigerian junta yesterday arrested General Olusegun Obasanjo, ex-head of state and the most senior politician known to have been detained since the regime announced it had thwarted a coup plot.

The general, who ruled from 1976 to 1979, was detained at his home in Ota, 40 miles north of here, at noon and taken to Lagos for questioning, his aide Ayo Adenirwale said.

Mr Adenirwale said the general told him that he was being arrested for "political reasons". Security officials had not confirmed his detention by the end of the afternoon.

Last Friday, General Abdul Salam Abubakar, Chief of Defence Staff, told a news conference that 29 military officers and civilians had been arrested in connection with a coup plot against General Sani Abacha's regime. He added that "further arrests" would be made "if the need arises", but details of the coup plot and its motives were sketchy. The regime had spoken of people stirring up dissent within the armed forces.

Last Thursday, General Shehu Musa Yar'Adua, a former deputy in General Obasanjo's regime and cur-

rently an elected member of the Constitutional Conference, was arrested by security agents from his official residence in Abuja. But there has been no official confirmation of the arrest or the whereabouts of General Yar'Adua, a major political figure and former presidential aspirant for 1993 presidential elections, held then made void by the military.

Bayo Olanuga, editor-in-chief of a Lagos-based press group, was arrested in his office late last Friday, his colleagues said. They suspect his arrest was connected with reports of the failed coup plan which two magazines in the group published last week, with which the military authorities expressed their displeasure.

Border officials in Ghana yesterday said at least three Nigerian military officers who fled following the failed coup are seeking political asylum there. Some officials said four officers and their driver crossed the border from Togo.

The independent *Nigerian Tribune* newspaper reported yesterday that all the nation's land and sea borders were being closely watched by security agents to prevent the escape of those linked with the failed coup attempt.

Kantor presses China on rights

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

MICKEY KANTOR, the American trade Representative, fresh from signing agreements with China on the protection of intellectual property rights, met President Jiang Zemin yesterday. He said later that Washington remained disappointed Peking had not moved significantly in key areas of human rights.

"This is an issue of great importance and an area where

we will continue to press," he said. "Failure to make progress will continue to present difficulties."

He said it was fair to say that Mr Jiang understood the American position and had agreed to continue discussing it further, "but there are some differences of opinion".

Mr Clinton uncoupled progress on human rights with Most Favoured Nation trading status last year, which

Mr Kantor said was right. However, China had not made progress on human rights since.

"However, we believe full engagement with China will lead to progress," he said.

□ Taipei: Vincent Siew, Taiwan's top policymaker on China, told a parliamentary committee yesterday that Deng Xiaoping, China's senior leader, is in critical condition. (Reuters)

Eager exodus spells failure of UN's high hopes

FROM EVE-ANN PRENTICE IN COPENHAGEN

IT SHOULD have been one of the great moments in postwar history.

Never had so many leaders been brought together before the roll call seemed endless at the UN's social summit in Copenhagen. Each one was moulding the fate of his people, and sometimes other people's people as well. There were so many that the hangar-like Bella Centre summit site was like an oversized chocolate box of exceedingly powerful people, with so many to choose from it was difficult to savour one at a time.

They came in answer to the UN's call for a gathering to try to eradicate poverty and cure social ills. Some — that is, the

richest — wanted to make sure they kept control of the world's purse strings and could continue to decide what was best in the way aid and loans were handed to the poor.

Some — the tyrants — came to make sure no one found the strength to tie aid more thoroughly to human rights.

And some — the leaders of the poorest nations, often inheritors of economies wracked by past corruption and yoked by present debt — came with a glimmer of hope that they would be helped.

Earnest, honest but unrealistic officials from the UN and the world's main aid agencies tried to persuade everyone that the social summit would



prove a turning point in the rich world's attitudes to the poor, simply by "focusing attention" and "agreeing to principles".

In the end, they must have been trying to persuade themselves. The sad and brutal fact is that as each of the 118

Presidents, Prime Ministers, or — as in Britain's case — ministers, spoke for their allotted seven minutes then left the summit centre, another bit of hot air escaped from the meeting's balloon.

There were two attempts to forge concrete action, both stymied in the planning stage.

The first was called the 20/20 Initiative. The UN calculated that if 20 per cent of government spending in the South and 20 per cent of development aid from the North was spent on meeting essential needs in education and healthcare, then clean water, nutrition and access to credit could be available to almost everyone on earth.

Another more quirky idea, espoused by President Mitterrand in his last big interna-

tional speech, was for a currency transaction tax. About \$1,000 billion (£640 billion) is sent across national borders every day, much of it by currency speculators. The UN believes that a tax of 0.05 per cent would discourage disruptive currency speculation and generate \$150 billion a year, more than twice the current total of international development aid.

As Francisque Ravony, the Madagascar Prime Minister, made the final summit speech early yesterday morning, Juan Somavia, chairman of the social summit, must have been less than euphoric. The speed with which the Bella Centre emptied as speakers who had finished failed to stay behind to hear those following, was more eloquent.

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TIM28

The great intriguer

Lord McAlpine and political gossip are long-standing, intimate bedfellows, says Joanna Pitman

Lord McAlpine of West Green is an indefatigable enthusiast. I met the former Tory party treasurer in his office flat in Bayswater and we talked — or rather he talked — very quickly and with considerable gusto, clarifying points, smiling his fast-gapped grin each time he unburdened himself of a delicious witticism: performing for all he was worth.

It was easily five minutes before I got an opportunity to ask my second question and I began to wonder whether I should simply have sent my tape recorder round in a taxi. But had I done this, I would have missed the show; and the show is so good that McAlpine could sell tickets for it.

He had been described to me as garrulous, jovial, indiscreet, a patron saint of political parody — all of which he undoubtedly is, although I can only guess about the last. The guesswork is made easier, however, with the help of McAlpine's new book, *Letters to a Young Politician*, a crafty tale of political intrigue published by Faber next week.

It is fiction, or so he claims. But among the dramatis personae are one or two embodiments of male incompetence who bear a striking resemblance to certain members of the cast seen performing daily at Westminster. There are also loathsome operators who ooze malice from every pore, as well as duplicity and throat-slitting stratagems galore — all of which will have junkies of the political theatre begging for names.

"It is fiction, but there is nothing in it that perhaps didn't happen or couldn't happen. It's a book about politics and the risks that politicians take. I don't think it fills you with joy about politics but it's a book of its time. I suppose it's set a few years in the future."

The book is also, I suspect, a form of demystification, revealing — with some glee — samples from the brain of the superb tactician that is McAlpine, the 52-year-old former politician. For all the larky good humour on display, the bumbling tweeds, the clownish tie and the battered suede shoes, it is clear that underneath he has always

been the very model of a political animal — cool, ruthless and loyal ultimately to no one but himself.

As bagman for Margaret Thatcher in the post of party treasurer from 1975 to 1990, he was a man of proven cunning, extracting (with the help of inherited connections and Garrick Club lunches lubricated with Chateau Latour) some £100 million from industrialists and ensuring that the 1980s was a decade of one-party rule. "I think I lasted

He openly kept a finger in the game, first by providing a haven for Mrs Thatcher in Great College Street immediately after her downfall, and later using it to harbour the team of Tory Euro-rebels whom he unleashed as the dogs of revolution onto John Major. This discreetly managed mauling campaign has resulted in the skilful humbling of the Prime Minister and has demonstrated that McAlpine remains loyal at least to his enemies. The

be awful if we get a socialist government, but quite frankly I think the Government we've got is pretty awful. Their policies are ghost-like, it's all about virility. They're only capable of symbolic gestures these days."

But to concentrate on McAlpine the writer and McAlpine the politician would do grave injustice to McAlpine the art collector, McAlpine the antique dealer, the zoo keeper, the ornithologist (he has bred 700 species of endangered birds on his 150-acre Australian zoo), the explorer, jewellery maker and perhaps most important, the businessman and builder by craft who joined the family firm, Robert McAlpine & Sons, at the age of 16 on being sent down from Stowe with three O levels.

"I was brought up on building sites as a child. At 16 I'd been on the site of the South Bank Centre for two weeks when there was a strike and suddenly 3,000 pickets were shaking the place to pieces. It was terrifying but you had to be quite cunning to get by."

It was a searing experience which he tackled with characteristic guile, ending up guzzling Guinness nightly with his predominantly Irish workforce. "It rather isolated me from my contemporaries who were going off to university and doing balls."

McAlpine never really slotted into any kind of category after that. "I was always fascinated by buying and selling things. My family thought I was the black sheep because I was interested in abstract expressionists and they were interested in racehorses. Those days if you were involved in the arts you were probably homosexual and almost certainly a waster, but if you were involved in horse racing you were very respectable."

The McAlpine belly veritably quivers with amusement at this, because he made a killing out of his art investments and the ponies never paid off. Multiple McAlpine killings have been made since then, and next week's book is unlikely to be the last.

● *Letters to a Young Politician* (Faber, £14.99) will be reviewed in *The Times* on Thursday.



McAlpine's new fable draws on the malice and absurdity of today's politicians

longer than anyone else in the post," he says with a cherubic smile.

True. But this was not only thanks to his dazzling performance as the party's moneybags. It was also due to the sleight of hand that discreetly guillotined three party chairmen for "having the wrong views" — Peter Thorneycroft ("We disagreed"), John Gummer ("It was just that I had sheer contempt for the man") and Norman Tebbit ("He took a different line").

Though he was often described as a key Thatcher ultra-loyalist and gatekeeper to her inner circle, there was it seems a limit to McAlpine's fealty. In early 1990, six months before Thatcher's fall, he judiciously extracted himself from Central Office and went off to write his first book, *The Servant*.

But McAlpine found himself unable to kick the habit.

Giles Coren explores the rough flipside of a screen legend

How Liz learnt to swear

An outrageous tale of violence, voyeurism and bad language explodes into Britain's bookshops next week and sensitive souls are bracing themselves for protest. A woman is brutalised, taped having sexual intercourse, and bullied into talking dirty to a group of whooping young men. It is not a new screenplay by Quentin Tarantino. The woman in question is Elizabeth Taylor, and the book is the latest biography of her.

About a dozen Taylor biographies have been published in the past ten years (five are currently in print), but C. David Heymann, author of *Liz* (Reed Books, £16.99), feels he has brought something new to his hackneyed subject. He ferrets around in the twilight margins of her life and delves deep into the cuttings files for old interviews and profiles, to produce a truly gory tome, touted, in the usual way, as the raunchy flipside of a screen legend.

At 16 Elizabeth Taylor was an international star, still basking in the glory of *National Velvet*, and mature to the point of prudishness. But her on-screen innocence was seen as a challenge by the vultures who lurked around her. At a Beverly Hills birthday party attended by Dean Martin, Jerry Lewis and Gene Kelly, "the boys" tried to bully her into swearing.

"Say f---," they insisted. She declined. "Say sexual intercourse," they tried, hoping to lure her into the unmentionable, "say copulation." But despite these cunning circumlocutions the group failed to make her compromise her purity. Two years later she did that herself when she married Nicky Hilton, the vicious heir to a hotel empire, who had already had an affair with his stepmother, Zsa Zsa Gabor.

The book makes great play of the fact that Taylor was soon cursing like a trooper, tying it into a general thesis that her first doomed marriage dragged her out of bourgeois lethargy into the craving for the rough language, rough sex and rough treatment that she was to demand from all her subsequent men, as a foil to the claustrophobia of stardom.



Liz Taylor in 1955, filming *Giant* — the former prude was now known for blue jokes

Taylor has said before that she was a virgin when she married. Until then she had simulated love scenes for the camera. The real thing, however, did not materialise immediately. For three nights the marriage went un consummated, Hilton preferring to gamble and drink with his friends. When he did return to their room he found his wife in the shower. "Without a word," Heymann writes, "Nicky suddenly slammed his fist into Elizabeth's mid-section. She fell to her knees, clutching her stomach... he turned off the shower and collapsed into bed."

By the time she filed for divorce, still only 18, Taylor's personality had totally changed, and the prude of two years before was becoming known for her blue jokes and erotic linericks. Little wonder that her next husband,

the suave British actor Michael Wilding, proved too tame for her. After affairs with Victor Mature and Frank Sinatra, the new wild version of Elizabeth Taylor married Mike Todd, a multi-millionaire impresario with a lifestyle closer to Hilton's.

Todd's first wife had died in 1947 of a self-inflicted stab wound sustained while chasing her husband with a steak knife. The second, Joan Blondell (whom he once dangled by the feet out of a sixteenth-floor window), was bankrupted by his theft from her of \$3 million. This was the sort of man, Elizabeth Taylor felt could shake up the monotony of her life.

Shortly before their marriage came one of the most pathetic incidents of the book. Visiting Lord Beaverbrook at his new home in the Bahamas, Liz and Mike gave him a tape recorder as a

house-warming present. "Todd also provided a tape, which Beaverbrook played alone in his bedroom that evening. It turned out to be a recording of the couple making love, half-an-hour of fervid moaning and groaning."

Todd gave away similar tapes to friends and business associates, says Heymann. He also beat and humiliated Taylor in public, taunted her about her weight, and fondled her breasts at lunches with studio moguls. The desire for independence merely led her into exploitation.

Whether or not any of this is true does not seem to bother Heymann, who revels in the misery. But he need not be overly castigated for trashing the life of a great movie star. That is something she determined to do for herself, if we believe the witnesses, more than 40 years ago.

Why do we dress like tarts?

Women's clothes are revealing more and more — about the wearers

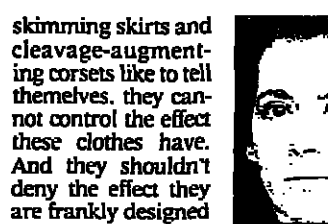
AFTER seeing the pictures from London Fashion Week I truly begin to think that we are all suffering from self-delusion on a grand scale. This is not to pretend that I am impervious to fashion — none of us is, even if we'd like to be — or that I regard it as unworthy of scrutiny. But it is not a dominant feature in my life.

The point is, what fashion says about clothes is only part of the story, and the least part of that: it's what the clothes say about us that is so riveting. The self-delusion to which I refer above is not quite of the Emperor's New Clothes variety (although the creations on the catwalk do seem to be made increasingly of the stuff from which his were fashioned). What interests me is the self-deception which accompanies our wearing the sort of clothes we've seen in the public prints this week: dresses which leave the bottom bare, or the breasts revealed, or are merely aprons held together by a G-string.

No, we're not wearing them yet, but they are no different, in effect, from what's already in the high street shops. Half the stuff hanging up in, say, Miss Selfridge or Top Shop are hookers' clothes.

It's not prudishness that makes me say that. I don't disapprove of girls and women going out in corsets and not much else, or transparent organza shirts with nothing on underneath, but I do wonder at the self-delusion. All these clothes carry an overt sexual message, but rarely will you hear anyone who wears such whorish garb admitting to it. Primly we are informed that they are not worn to be sexy but because they simply please the wearer. Nothing is meant to be conveyed, we are told, except the wearer's confidence in herself.

This is ludicrous: whatever women who wear bottom-



NIGEL LAWSON

skimming skirts and cleavage-augmenting corsets like to tell themselves, they cannot control the effect these clothes have. And they shouldn't deny the effect they are frankly designed to have. I'm not saying that a thigh-length leather boot is an open invitation to rape, but it is an indisputable invitation to lewd male thoughts.

For some reason I have never quite fathomed, tarts' clothes have become something of the uniform of the self-confessed "post-feminist" woman. They are about women's power, we are informed, not male desire. This is crazy. (And why, anyway, are the two in opposition?) I am a fierce and die-hard feminist but that doesn't mean I can convince myself that I may go out half-naked and then feel full of righteousness indignation if a man leers at me. Men don't have the right to touch women, whatever they're wearing, but it is a bit much to expect them not to respond sexually.

TO DENY the sexual connotations of the sort of clothes that are paraded on catwalks and high streets now seems perverse. But perhaps it does say something about the age. Not that long ago I saw a pop video in which Kylie Minogue slowly stripped, and it struck me indeed how unsexual it was. Maybe that's partly because it was her: but the gaze implicit in it was not the desiring, slandering male's, but Minogue's own. This was pure narcissism.

Perhaps the see-through, torn-off, backless, topless,

flesh-revealing clothes are part of the same thing: an infantile self-absorption verging on the onanistic.

Of course it is also of a piece with the utter breakdown of the distinction between the public and private spheres now. Sexual activity must be shouted about from the rooftops, private fears and dreams must be fully aired, the flesh that one would show in the bedroom must be equally exhibited at the bus-stop. To do anything less, so the current wisdom dictates, is to be hypocritical and dishonest.

● SINCE the Treasury makes so much money out of cigarettes, I am always struck by the hypocrisy of the Government's health warnings against smoking. Now that it looks as if some EU rule will allow British smokers to get their cigarettes more cheaply by having them sent from the Continent, it is good to see the Government's honest display of dismay — not at smoking, but at the thought that it won't be able to profit from this abhorred and advised-against vice.

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Dr Thomas Stuttford visits a remarkable clinic, run as a charity, which offers both the very latest in diagnostic medicine and a humane approach

A SHOP hidden behind the Brighton Pavilion has been home since 1982 to a walk-in diagnostic clinic. Just as the Pavilion once reflected the best of artistic achievement, so this clinic exhibits highly advanced diagnostic methods.

Despite the modernity of the equipment, advice is given to patients in a way reminiscent of an Edwardian Harley Street consultation. There is none of the crudeness that might have characterised a doctor's approach to his patient in the Prince Regent's time, nor the stark, mechanistic contact with staff that can sometimes blight today's hospital visit.

The clinic has recently introduced the new Bard dipstick test for the early detection of cancer of the bladder. It is the first centre in which this is available

to members of the general public. The test promises to be as lifesaving as it is cheap (about £20), quick (results are available in less than five minutes) and easy. A strip of chemically impregnated paper is dipped into the patient's urine to which a reagent has been added. If cancer cells from the bladder wall are present in the urine, the strip turns a distinctive yellow.

Cancer of the bladder is the fourth most common cancer in men, the ninth in women. The signs include bleeding; so little it can be detected only by micro-

scope or by a different dipstick. Sometimes a tumour becomes apparent because of increased frequency of, or painful, urination. The test will detect earlier than otherwise possible any need for cystoscopy.

The clinic hopes to buy a Toshiba ultrasound system. Tumours have a richer blood supply than healthy tissue and this equipment, using the Doppler effect, can measure variations in blood supply to different parts of the breast.



The clinic is run as a charity: those who can, pay the actual cost of the procedure, others pay according to their means. Dr Jan de Winter, the director of the clinic, started it when he retired as consultant in radiotherapy and oncology at the Royal Sussex County Hospital. After spending a lifetime treating patients, many of whom had advanced cancer, he resolved to devote his energy to educating people on how to live healthier lives, and to the early diagnosis

of potentially deadly diseases. Mammography, ultrasound examination of the breast, ovaries and testes, cervical screening and a blood test which is useful in differentiating between benign and malignant enlargement of the prostate, are available.

Defying its name, Dr de Winter's clinic for cancer prevention and advice, is also geared for the detection of high blood pressure, raised cholesterol and ultrasound examination of the aorta, the body's main artery which is liable to weaken and, sometimes, rupture in older

men, particularly if they have a high blood pressure.

Emphasis is laid on the prevention and early diagnosis of osteoporosis because its complications kill more women than do all the female genital cancers combined. Having bone density measured is pain-free and without irradiation. It is not messy and there is no sticky gel: the foot is merely placed in a warm water bath and ultrasound waves are transmitted through the heel bone. The densitometer measures the transit time of the waves, displays the result on a screen, and compares it with what would be considered a desirable reading for the woman.

● Clinic for Cancer Prevention, 6 New Road, Brighton BN2 3 7ZT (01273 727131)

Walk right in for an early diagnosis

Can you forget sexual abuse?

Two psychiatrists have thrown doubt on the existence of repressed memory, says Dr Bruce Charlton

Repression has been made familiar by a multitude of films and television thrillers during which the hero or heroine suffers a childhood trauma, to which they react by experiencing amnesia of the events. Years later the lost memory floods back, often in response to the proddings of a psychoanalyst or hypnotist. The scenario is so familiar that the reality of repression has come to seem like common sense to many people.

In the cases where grown-up children have accused parents of sexual abuse, based on memories recovered during psychotherapy, few people have so far challenged the mechanism of repression itself. It has been assumed that it does indeed occur, and that the legal question is whether or not repression has occurred in any particular case.

However, a recent paper in *Psychological Medicine* entitled "Can memories of childhood sexual abuse be repressed?" by Dr Harrison Pope and Dr James Hudson, both psychiatrists at Harvard University, throws serious doubt on the issue.

While it is often impossible to be sure about the truth of any specific claim of repression, Drs Pope and Hudson point out that, according to current estimates, well over a million American adults have probably suffered some degree of childhood sexual abuse. Among such a large pool of subjects who have experienced such disturbing events, it would be reasonable to expect that well-documented cases of repression would not be hard to find — if they exist.

But the criteria for authentic repression must be rigorous. Drs Pope and Hudson suggest three main prerequisites. In the first place, the traumatic event must actually have hap-

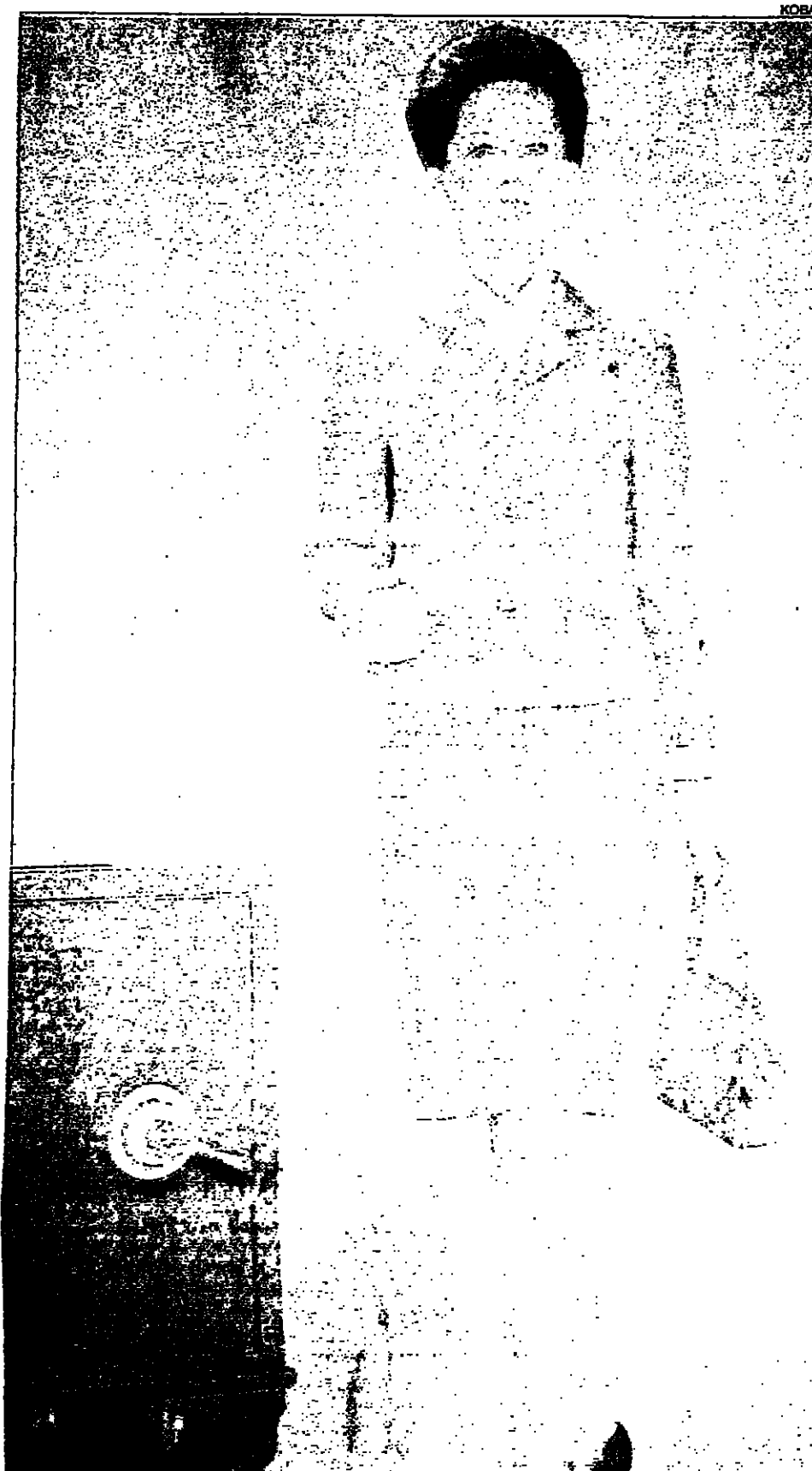
pened. There are several acceptable sources of objective evidence for sexual abuse, such as contemporary medical records, photographs, reliable and unbiased witnesses, and sometimes confirmation by the perpetrator of abuse.

Secondly, repression must be distinguished from concealment, pretending, misleading and lying. This can often be clarified by in-depth interviewing. Thirdly, the neurotic amnesia of repression must be distinguished from the perfectly normal process of forgetting. Only after the age of about five can it be assumed or expected that children would be capable of remembering

most significant events in their lives. Finally, to prove repression, abuse must be sufficiently traumatic that any normal child would be expected to remember the events.

The authors sought the answers by means of a comprehensive computer search of the scientific literature, and by networking among experts in the field. Reviewing the evidence in the light of their criteria, Drs Pope and Hudson made an astonishing discovery. In all the published literature on the subject there was not one authenticated case of repression of the memories of the childhood sexual abuse. This clear negative finding has been maintained since the publication of the research and its presentation at meetings and in conversation.

Dr Pope was not surprised by his findings. "Until relatively recently, about the end of the 19th century, the common-sense view of the mass of mankind has been that people do not forget traumas. Perhaps the greatest psychologist ever was Shakespeare. He documented a vast range of human behaviours, but not repression. Indeed, the consensus was that people



Making use of repressed childhood events: Hitchcock's *Marnie* starring Tippi Hedren

couldn't forget traumas even when they wanted to — think of Lady Macbeth. The currently popular idea of repression seems to be derived mostly from film and television."

Dr Pope is adamant that the burden of proof should lie upon those who claim that repression does occur. "You cannot prove a negative, so it is unreasonable to expect anyone to show that repression never happens. But before accepting the reality of repression we need to be convinced by properly documented cases."

The urgent need is for rigorously designed studies to check the negative finding. The task is not impossible in principle, Drs Pope and Hud-

son suggest that investigators could start with medically documented cases of sexual abuse, and concentrate on those people where the abuse happened over the age of five and was of sufficient severity to be unforgettable under normal circumstances.

Such individuals would be interviewed in two stages. First a general discussion about the history of childhood trauma, then those who denied abuse could be followed up in a clarification interview when they would be asked directly about the known abuse event. Subjects who still reported amnesia would be plausible candidates for repression.

Assuming the work of Drs Pope and Hudson is confirmed, the legal implications of this paper could be profound. Because if there is no scientifically rigorous proof of the reality of repression, then any legal case which depends upon the truth of repression is immediately undermined.

As things stand, there is no compelling reason to suppose that childhood memories of sexual abuse can be repressed. It is intriguing to speculate how many other widely accepted psychological processes might turn out to be similarly unsupported by the facts.

● Dr Bruce Charlton is a lecturer in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, Newcastle University

Get to the top if you want to stay healthy

Jeremy Laurance talks to the man who monitors the health and sickness of our civil servants in Whitehall

Michael Marmot is keen on control. Exerting control over one's working life is, he believes, a key reason why some people are healthier than others. For the past 18 years, he has overseen two huge studies of civil servants which have become classics of the medical literature. Known as the Whitehall studies, their findings have demonstrated that the way people feel about themselves and their lives affects their health.

The first Whitehall study, which reported in 1984, turned on its head the conventional wisdom that heart attacks happened to executives. It showed that the reverse tended to be true. People in the lowest Civil Service grades were at highest risk. The same was true for all causes of death.

The most striking finding was that the risk diminished with each step up the career ladder. We already knew that manual workers died sooner than office workers, but what made senior managers healthier than middle managers?

Michael Marmot, who is Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health at University College, London, set up a second study (Whitehall II), this time including women, to test the hypothesis that once the basic needs of life are satisfied — food, heat, shelter — psychological needs would assume a greater importance. More than 10,000 civil servants filled in questionnaires and their health has been monitored for a decade.

The results are still coming in but two themes are already clear: lack of support from family, friends or colleagues and lack of control are important determinants of health. A life of servitude, in which there is little scope for individual expression, is likely to be short and unhappy.

Whitehall II shows that just as the risk of premature death decreased with rising seniority in the Civil Service, so did risk of illness. For each step up, sickness absence fell. Clerical staff took six times as much time off sick as assistant secretaries.

Diet and smoking accounted for at most one third of these differences. What explained the rest?

Professor Marmot, born in England and brought up in Australia, became interested in the social determinants of disease when he moved to California in the 1970s. Then a young PhD student, he was intrigued by the sharp rise in heart disease rates experi-



Marmot: classic studies

enced by Japanese migrants. Professor Marmot noticed that those who were most integrated into Californian society had the highest heart disease rates.

Then, as a young doctor on a visit to New Guinea, he attended a lecture given by Dr Denis Burkitt, the charismatic Third World epidemiologist, who believed that most common diseases depend on people's social and ecological circumstances.

Professor Marmot says: "It was a revelation to me. I saw patients with chronic heart disease and lung disease on the wards in Sydney and we would patch them up and send them out, and back they would come. I thought there had to be a better way than this."

Ten years later, examining the results of the first Whitehall study, Professor Marmot reached for the social explanation again. Lower grade civil servants were more likely to complain about the lack of support they received at home. They would often say that spouses or close friends made matters worse, not better.

A second key difference was the amount of control people had over their jobs. Research from Sweden and the United States has shown that people

in jobs where they are under pressure but have little control, or where the tasks are unskilled and repetitive, have high rates of heart disease.

For Professor Marmot, control is the key. "There is no question that there is a real difference in the amount of control people have in their jobs. The ultimate example of lack of control is the person on the production line or the office worker told to process a set number of forms before lunch."

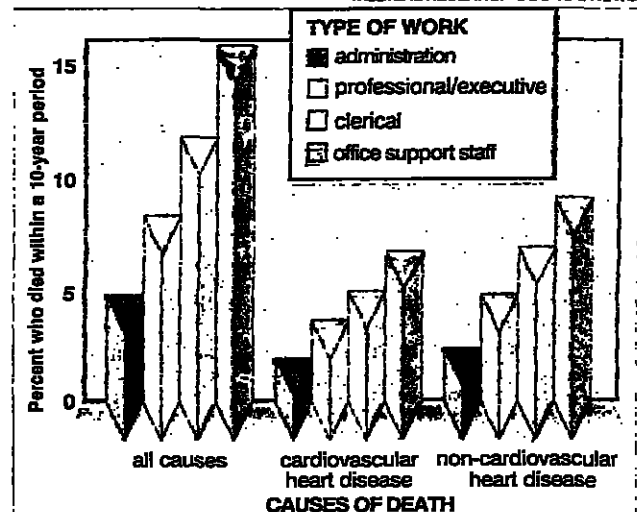
But who has control? The doctor with a surgery full of patients? The chief executive with a diary full of meetings? And when work is over, do not domestic demands assert themselves?

Professor Marmot says: "The doctor is not in the same position as the clerical officer who has the nature of his work dictated to him. The doctor is exerting a lot of independent judgment — he is taking decisions all the time. A healthy working environment is one in which workers are given the maximum amount of control. That doesn't mean anarchy in the workplace — it means giving people responsibility and involvement."

"It is not demands *per se* that damage health — it is demands in the face of no control. It is not helpful to say the chief executive is under more stress than the clerk. It is not the basic job that is most stressful, but the way where the person has less control, least variety and little or no opportunity to develop new skills."

He acknowledges that other factors such as self-esteem and job satisfaction may be equally important. Whitehall II will, he hopes, show how important. But control is the factor his money is riding on.

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The chart shows clearly that the lower a man's civil service grade the higher his risk of premature death

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Tatchell's destructive tragedy

Sexuality is a complex, intimate matter, not a political weapon

William Rees-Mogg

I do not often write about issues of sexual morality. I was never very sure that I understood them when I was young, but I am quite sure that I do not understand them now that I am old. About one thing, however, I am certain. The sexual temperaments of human beings vary extremely widely. Although people often assume that most others have the same sexual responses as they have themselves, that is a mistake. By any measure, whether of intensity, frequency, violence, fetishism, sado-masochism, love, romanticism, obsession, promiscuity, homosexuality, fidelity, modesty or chastity, people differ widely from each other, and at various times they differ from their past selves.

The distinguished economic journalist Andrew Shonfield was the son of a rabbi and, I think, the brother of one or more psychoanalysts. He was very interested in Freudian theory, and was the recipient of many confidences. I remember him telling me of a young man who suffered from the same problem as President Kennedy: he felt impelled to make love extremely frequently; he said that six hours was for him a period of intolerable abstinence. He told Andrew that once, walking in the small hours through the back streets of a small Spanish town, he suffered an obsessive compulsion to solicit the favours of an ancient and ugly beggar woman, just like a heroin addict in need of a fix. That is simply one variation of the human sexual temperament, taken to an extreme.

The starting point in considering the varieties of human sexual conduct has therefore to be pluralism, not as an ideal but as a fact. Those who have a middling sexual temperament should recognise that there are many others for whom life is not so straightforward. People who are able to obey orthodox Christian teaching on sexual conduct benefit greatly from the stability and often the happiness that it offers them and their families, but they should not judge their neighbours who are exposed to different passions. The only people who deserve to be condemned by society are those who destroy the sexual integrity or family security of others — the paedophiles, the rapists, the reckless adulterers and so forth.

Yet if one applies this principle of pluralism to homosexuality, the concept of the homosexual community begins to dissolve. In the late 20th century, some people think that others should be identified by a single sexual characteristic that they either belong to the gay community, or do not. It is therefore a matter of common honesty for them to declare themselves, to come out of the closet. This is the argument of Peter Tatchell's letter to the Bishop of London. In his view, "the time for purely private acts of goodness is past".

Both homosexuals and heterosexuals have the right not to be categorised in these re-

ductionist sexual terms. Before Freud, few people would have dreamt of doing so. No one should be required to "out" himself or herself as gay or straight or anything else, because it implies that this is the one significant thing about them. "Outing" is also unforgivable as an invasion of privacy. If people wish to stay "in the closet", that is their right and may even be their duty.

If I have sympathy with Peter Tatchell, it is because he is so obviously in pain. He feels that some great harm has been done to him; that trauma must surely go beyond the fact that his own homosexuality was used to defeat his political ambition. He does not hesitate to threaten other people with exposure, using that threat rather as though it were a terrorist weapon. This is particularly damaging to other homosexuals: he tries to force them to accept the legitimacy of a full stereotype; he makes that stereotype worse by his own personal anger and bitterness. He could not be more unlike the majority of the bishops he denounces — whatever their sexuality may in fact be, they have tried to turn it into love and goodwill for humanity.

Sexuality varies widely from person to person

The effect of Peter Tatchell's campaign has already been to promote the homophobia he wants to eradicate. The reasons why homophobia has on the whole diminished are that most people have become more tolerant, and that countless homosexuals have behaved in a way which has won admiration and confidence. It is not only their wit or their understanding. In both ways, homophobes were surprised to discover that homosexuals, contrary to the stereotype, were not less brave than their fellow soldiers.

Almost all of us have benefited at one time or another from the devoted teaching of the markedly bachelorette schoolmaster or the perhaps lesbian schoolmistress. Their sexuality gave them an extra concern for their pupils. In religion, there are no doubt leaders in all churches whose sexual orientation might be homosexual if it were expressed; they are among the most caring of pastors.

Many homosexuals do experience suffering, as Peter Tatchell plainly has; homophobia is a real force, and many homosexuals would clearly wish to be parents and regret being cut off from ordinary family life. One of the permanent truths of Christian history is that suffering can either turn to bitterness or develop deeper qualities of love and sympathy. What is always sad is when sufferers inflict suffering, when the persecuted become the persecutors. That is the real tragedy of Peter Tatchell.



...and there was a great wailing and a gnashing of teeth...
Exodus, Clause 4: v 16

Too nice to be competent

Some of the folk looking after our money are quite splendid — and quite hopeless

One of these days, I shall write a column composed entirely of headlines, though these will not be chosen at random. They will be drawn from a gigantic bran-tub of announcements — announcements, that is, of failures, incompetence, stupidities, ignorances, lazinesses and follies. You dare me? Right.

"City jewel loses its sparkle" — "Shares hit by deal for struggling rival" — "Prudential directors must appeal again" — "Chairman may face reprimand over Newmarket share deal" — "Barclays ordered to pay firm £1.8m" — "Running blindfold up an escalator backwards" — "Warburg stunned as chief resigns" — "Fallen on his own sword" — "Lime Street's impeccable image is under heavy fire" — "Prudential 'misled' £16,000" — "Salomon takes \$194m hit over London errors" — "Teachers misled on Pru pensions" — and (this is the most gorgeous of the lot, and one to which I must return) "Far too nice for the job".

And the most astonishing item in that entire catalogue (which, I must tell you, could be replicated with different entries every month for a dozen years) is that there is not one swindle, scam or rip-off in the whole bundle: there was nothing but a host of perfectly honest and honourable boneheads to do the damage. And the boneheads in question got down to their splendid boneheadedness, and — I dare say — frequently stayed late at the office to make sure that they got everything wrong.

Ah, yes, Levin is exaggerating again. Wrong: Levin is not putting a shine on the story anywhere. Take this, from our Tempus Editor:

Salomon Brothers, the American securities firm, has discovered that book-keeping errors in its London operations have cost it \$194 million. The losses were uncovered after a detailed 18-month investigation into the firm's ledgers and accounts balances, and helped to drag the group down to a loss of \$364 million. Salomon said that a team of 40 executives, with help from Arthur Andersen, the accountancy firm, had been examining the London operation's ledgers since the middle of 1993 and had uncovered thousands of errors on more than 300 internal accounts. The group emphasised, however, that no fraud had been involved.

"No fraud had been involved"; yes — that was perfectly true. No one was doing the dirty, no one was pocketing a kickback, no one was confusing

meum and tuum to his or her advantage. It was only a substantial number of trained employees, hired for their expertise, who made "thousands of errors", and in making them lost their company one hundred and ninety-four million dollars, or in British currency, roughly one hundred and twenty million pounds. But now, pray tell me where *exactly* runs the line between a mountain of mistakes and a pack of monumental bloody fools?

Go on; try the old, worn trick on me "Levin, you couldn't have avoided the catastrophe if they had put you in charge: indeed, with you at the helm the loss would have been not \$194 million, but twice that number, so who are you to scorn those who did their best?" No! I couldn't do their job, but I can do mine. If anyone is engaged to keep the books straight in Salomon Brothers' London branch, I would expect him or her to do so. They didn't.

Come down a few notches: there you will find a Mr Terry Dodd. You will find him in a perfectly filthy temper, and I don't blame him. The Prudential — the very Pru itself — has been, at least where Mr Dodd is concerned, not just remiss but scandalous to the point of arson. Well, when you see a headline reading "Prudential 'misled' £16,000", you wouldn't, these days, be all that surprised, particularly because insurers are now neck and neck with the banks in the matter of getting five shies at the coconut and missing six times. (Mr Dodd not only lost his £16,000, but found his extra £1,000 in somebody else's account.)

Mind you, the scandal of the Pru and the teachers, revealed by *The Sunday Times*, leaves Mr Dodd far down the course.

The extent of the Prudential's administrative problem is much wider than first thought. Teachers' complaint of money going missing, statements not arriving and apathy on the part of Prudential staff... Teachers have been advised to put too much money into the scheme which could leave

them with an overfunded pension. This threatens problems with the Inland Revenue...

And again, we find that nobody has been putting hands in others' pockets, the more easily to extract the money. The Pru is no swindler: the Pru is not to be found cutting a grubby corner; the Pru is a pillar of our society and has been for countless decades. But don't tell me that we all make mistakes. We do, all of us. But when it comes to mistakes over hundreds of millions of money, or of hard-gathered pension contributions, I think I can say, without absurdity as it would be in other contexts, that the people in charge of such crucial matters have no right to make mistakes.

And there we are at the crux. If an airline pilot has no right to make even one mistake, because even one mistake could kill hundreds of people, there must be something like a ladder of burden. The pilot is at the top; the man who puts the artificial laughter on a comedy television series is on the bottom. But that leaves a very great number of steps for the ladder.

So whereabouts on the ladder would you put the chief executive of a big City institution? By the hushed and reverent tones used when discussing Lord Cairns, an outsider might think that the nation had just interred a world-renowned pillar of our society, and was seeking, almost in vain, to find his like: a great hero — Nelson, for instance; a unique entertainer — Kean, perhaps; a one-in-a-million writer — Levin, no doubt. Actually, the fuss is because Lord Cairns (who he?) has graciously sacked himself from the post of chief executive to the firm of S G Warburg, having to shoulder responsibility for the failure of merger talks with Morgan Stanley. To which I can only say "Wow!" (There is some slender evidence that he might have been surprised by his abrupt departure from the podium: in the *Times* photograph that accompanied his story, he looked exactly like a man

who had just been vigorously punched in the stomach.)

All else is dithyramb. "Far too nice for the job" — end of an era in British banking... needed to be a tougher and nastier character... likes a bit of shooting as much as mucking out his pigs and real tennis... counts the Prince of Wales among his intimates... not above working for the underprivileged... great-grandfather was Disraeli's Lord Chancellor... modest and unacquisitive... rarely uses his title... But then the clouds gather. Those qualities cut no ice on the international stage and, when things started to crumble, failed to enthuse the Warburg staff.

There are pages and pages in different papers, all saying that Lord Cairns was the nicest man in the world — nay, the nicest man in all history. I have no reason to doubt that. But, oddly, the pages and pages in question are long on Lord Cairns's beautiful character but short on his stewardship of Warburg's.

One or two toes have been dabbled in the water. Here, for instance, is an illuminating aspect of the matter: we are told that Lord Cairns had lost the support of many of Warburg's 5,300 staff. Worse still, Sir David Scholey denied speculation that Lord Cairns was forced by other directors to relinquish control. He said Lord Cairns had told him on Saturday morning of his decision after "the ground was cut from under him". Making it all the worse, Sir David said: "I did not say to him 'You have got it all wrong'. He is a big enough man to decide these things for himself."

"Far too nice for the job": those were the words that were, and are, still bandied about in the wake of Lord Cairns's resignation. Plainly, the words were heartfelt by all those who used them: he has loyal friends. But I have to spit in the loving-cup, if only because nobody else will. If Lord Cairns was far too nice for his job, what was he doing in it, and who let him in the first place?

When shall we learn that it is a hard world, and, as the American baseball argot has it, "nice guys come last"? Ask Mr Terry Dodd, he of the heroic struggle to teach the Prudential that two plus two make four. Ask the book-keepers in Salomon's who found themselves some millions of dollars short. Ask those whose recreation is running blindfold up an escalator backwards. But if you ask Lord Cairns, do please remember that he is far too nice for the job.

Bernard Levin

Walking in the steps of Gaitskell

Woodrow Wyatt

on the last Clause

Four revolution

Until the 1959 election defeat, Clause Four did not worry Hugh Gaitskell. But after polling day, he became convinced by internal Labour reports and the views of friends that it had lost him the election. That was not my impression during my campaign at Bosworth, which I held for Labour. Contrary to popular opinion now and then, what lost the election was Harold Macmillan's skilful reiteration of the need for higher taxation if Labour's pledges were to be fulfilled.

Gaitskell's answer was that there would be no need for higher taxes because anticipated national growth would cover the extra cost — which was true.

But the country was not convinced, any more than it was persuaded by John Smith's peculiar election stunt of a shadow budget in answer to Norman Lamont's demonstration that Labour's plans would inevitably lead to higher taxation from top to bottom.

Having decided to follow a path of intellectual integrity by trying to make clear what Clause Four really meant in modern terms, Gaitskell could not easily be diverted. On the first Sunday after the election, he and Tony Crosland had dinner with me. Crosland forcefully argued that revising Clause Four would be more trouble than it was worth. I did not disagree.

The following Tuesday, Gaitskell stayed the night with Dick Crossman at his farm. Crossman records Hugh saying "Douglas Jay and Roy [Jenkins] want to drop all nationalisation. I am not in favour of dropping iron and steel and road haulage."

So the arid battle was on. I never believed the voters in general gave a hoot about it before or after 1959, except to note that it caused no end of a dust-up in the Labour Party, with predictable enemies and friends weighing in, while the more cautious members of the party sat on the fence.

At a large public meeting in Nottingham in February 1960, Hugh said that the trouble with Clause Four was that it hinted at nationalising everything, but he was not against extending public ownership. "It's absurd to think... we can achieve the degree of equality we want without an extension of public ownership... to plan successfully for full employment, more investment and higher productivity, we shall need to extend the public sector."

He never got the clause amended, but at the 1960 Blackpool conference, he did achieve an extremely long statement of official policy as an appendix to Labour's constitution, which "reaffirms, amplifies and clarifies party objectives".

Paragraph (e) says that Labour "stands for social justice, for a society in which the claims of those in hardship or distress come first; where the wealth produced by all is fairly shared among all; where differences in rewards depend not upon birth or inheritance but on the effort, skill and creative energy contributed to the common good; and where equal opportunities exist for all to live a full and varied life".

Paragraph (f) says that the party rejects "the selfish, acquisitive doctrines of capitalism and strives to create instead a socialist community".

I has taken 35 years for Labour's National Executive to be persuaded by a new leader to repeat the gist of that dubious jargon as part of a proposed new Clause Four.

Blair's version, however, though telling us that there are instances in which public ownership is better than private, does not go so far as Gaitskell's paragraph (f), which says: "these social and economic objectives can be achieved only through an expansion of common ownership substantial enough to give the community power over the commanding heights of the economy. Common ownership takes varying forms, including state-owned industries and firms..."

Curiously, Hugh Gaitskell did believe in the benefits of everything being subject to state planning, but he did not suppose the conditions, or the form of administration, would be in suitable shape until the next century. Nor did he include in his Utopia the small and medium-sized industries, whose fears of confiscation he was seeking to allay. Probably they never read his arcane reassurance.

The chief result of the divisive exercise was that the old-fashioned socialists in the Labour Party thought Hugh had betrayed them. He got a better response when he said that he was not prepared to "sacrifice a thousand years of history" by joining the Common Market. His closer friends were horrified. But I begin to wonder whether he might not have been right, and whether Boy Blair, who admires Gaitskell, can somehow contrive to wriggle into his mantle of Euro-scepticism.

Too late, I think.

Cast list

NICHOLAS DIMBLEBY, the sculptor brother of broadcasters David and Jonathan, is offering a reward for the return of his children. They have been stolen from the garden of his Devon home.

Two lifelike bronze casts of Joseph and Maisie Dimbleby disappeared at the weekend. The



Dimbleby, with cast copies

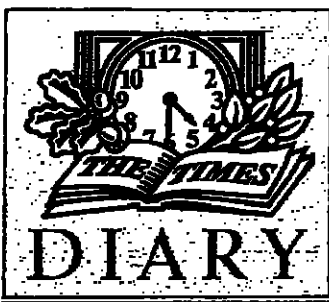
statues are worth more than £5,000 each; they are the only bronze works Dimbleby has kept for himself, and he says they are of immense sentimental value.

Dimbleby is offering one of his works in terracotta to anyone who provides information leading to the return of the bronzes. "They were originally part of a commission from a company for a group sculpture, but I decided to keep the figures of Joseph, who was then 11, and Maisie, who was five. I can't afford not to sell my work, these were all I had and very precious to me."

"They must have been lifted from right under our noses, because we were in the house at the time. Someone must have crept in during the night and had a van waiting at the end of the drive."

Inside story

NEWS to keep Nick Leeson on his toes. No fewer than 11 book proposals on the Barings collapse are currently circulating London publishers. So far, three are running certainties. Stephen Fay, as I mentioned recently, is scribbling away



for Richard Cohen. Now John Gapper, the banking editor of the *Financial Times*, has been signed up by Little, Brown.

But the most intriguing prospect has to be a book commissioned by HarperCollins, which has paid more than £150,000 to Judith Rawnsley, sister of *The Observer's* associate editor, Andrew, to produce a treatise for publication in June. Rawnsley worked for Barings in Tokyo for five years and knew Leeson well. *Blue Blood, Bad Blood* should tell the inside story — her husband is a director of Barings in the Far East.

● The first casualty of Talk Radio UK, the new national station launched last month, is the hubristically-named programme Success. "It has been taken off indefinitely," says a spokesman of a programme which lasted two epis-

odes and was designed to teach its audience how to stay in business.

Stolen kiss

RUMOURS were galloping around Lambourn's training yards on the eve of Cheltenham, after an admission in *The Racing Post* by Charlie Brooks, who trains for Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber. Asked which horse at the Cheltenham Festival he would most like to train, Brooks replied: "Talbot... as I could then speak to the owner's wife more often."

The owner in question, property consultant James Dean, was flat-



TONY BLAIR, IN THE LIVING ROOM, WITH THE BIRD

tered. "He's a mischievous chap. He goes out with Miriam Francome and he's always joking about like this. I think he once kissed my wife as a teenager."

Poetic folly

THE HEAD of the stricken Barings clan has turned to his local council in Hampshire for money. Lord Ashburton is negotiating for a grant to restore a folly on his estate (which adjoins Lord Sainsbury's), so that his wife can use the 19th-century building as a retreat for writing poetry.

Winchester City Council is considering the application, and has said that as long as the public is allowed access, Ashburton will get more than £5,000. "He has been offered the standard amount for a grant of this kind, which is ten per cent of the building costs," says a council spokesman.

Roll up

AS THE Prince of Wales sweated it out in Cairo on Sunday in a dark suit on his first official visit to Egypt, Tony Blair took advantage of the unseasonably warm weather back home at the weekend. For an informal Clause Four negotiation with John Prescott at Blair's Is-



Armless? Or tatty?

lington home, the Labour leader slipped on an article of clothing beloved of caravan campers: a short-sleeved shirt.

Sir Hardy Amies, dress-maker to Her Majesty the Queen, is appalled. "I can hardly bring myself to discuss it," he says. "It is shady office gear. Even gentlemen playing cricket should wear long sleeves rolled up to just below the elbow. A short-sleeved shirt is only excusable in the tropics or on the tennis court."

P-H-S



HOPE AND OUTRAGE

A brave churchman resists militant persecution

The Bishop of London's call yesterday for an "honest and constructive debate about human sexuality" was a dignified response to an outrageous invasion of his privacy which has clearly caused him great pain. By the actions which drove Dr David Hope to make his courageous statement, the militant gay rights group, OutRage!, has shown that it has nothing positive to contribute to such a debate. The contrast between the bishop's candour and the shabby tactics of the group hounding him could not be more stark.

In recent years, Peter Tatchell, the leader of OutRage!, has put himself forward as a representative spokesman of homosexual men and women. The methods he has used suggest that he is nothing of the kind. In its relentless pursuit of shock and sensation, OutRage! has frightened many people and alienated many more. By seeking to "out" those who prefer their homosexuality to be a private matter, the group has shown scant regard for ordinary decency.

The letter from Mr Tatchell to Dr Hope which prompted the latter's statement yesterday epitomises the difference between openness and crass innuendo. In the cloying phrases of mock sympathy, Mr Tatchell says that the group has "a lot of detailed information about your personal life" which it has "chosen" not to publish. The bishop is then invited to become "an agent for the liberation of lesbian and gay people". If, legally, this demand does not constitute blackmail, then spiritually, it is just that — an attempt to badger an obviously distressed man into adopting a certain course of action against his will.

There is absolutely no justification for this

form of pressure. Dr Hope is not guilty of hypocrisy. He admits that he is ambiguous about his sexuality but leads, in his own words, a "single, celibate life". This behaviour is consistent with the Church of England's teaching, which forbids clergy to have gay relationships but does not condemn homosexual inclination. Whether Dr Hope is of this inclination is nobody's business but his own. It is regrettable that he has felt compelled to make his innermost feelings public.

Militant groups have long argued that "the personal is political". Mr Tatchell's letter is based on the pernicious assumption that sexuality is an essentially public matter. While acknowledging that the bishop has assisted many gay clergy in his diocese, he tells Dr Hope that "the time for purely private acts of goodness is past" and that he must assume a new role of public leadership. This is a completely arbitrary judgment. People's sexuality should remain a private matter unless their sexual behaviour does others harm or is at odds with what they say in public.

By speaking so honestly, the bishop has called Mr Tatchell's bluff. Rumour and intimidation should have no place in democratic discourse and it is right that so senior a churchman should stand up for this principle. Gay leaders more moderate than Mr Tatchell must distance themselves unequivocally from his discredited methods. In spite of the hysterical claims made by OutRage!, homophobia is much less prevalent than it used to be. Self-publicists such as Mr Tatchell risk the reversal of this trend by their perverse and provocative actions.

Easter with little sign of the Cross

From the Reverend Mark Oakley

Sir, "What is this obsession with the Cross?", asks Kate Greaves as she assists in masterminding a dreadful advertisement campaign for the church on this Easter ("Church's Easter message dispenses with the Cross", report, March 10). Contrary to the selling tactics of this campaign, the Christian faith holds that the suffering of the Cross was not cancelled out by the Resurrection but shown to be at the very heart of the divine life we are called to share. The risen Christ does not therefore say "Surprise!" to his disciples but wishes them peace.

In a world in which words carry less conviction than ever before, posters such as that designed by Ms Greaves and her colleagues only serve to cheapen the Christian faith into being a product (such as a hamburger) rather than celebrating the responsive, joyful, but often fragile, way of life it actually is.

Yours faithfully,
MARK OAKLEY,
3 Cochran Street,
St John's Wood, NW8,
March 10.

From Mrs J. D. Abell

Sir, The Church's campaign to drop "clashed images" such as the Cross from its advertising puts it at risk of impoverishing itself in a rat-race attempt to make itself more popular.

The politically correct of the Church seek to replace such supposedly outdated cultural baggage with an advertising slogan. This is one of the greatest, most solemn and most ineffable mysteries of all religion shrunk by small minds to the level of soap powder.

Yours faithfully,
JULIANA ABELL,
The Old Rectory,
Branton-by-Belvoir,
Grantham, Lincolnshire,
March 10.

From the Reverend Richard Thomas

Sir, The Cross has not been "dropped" from the Churches' Easter advertising campaign. The central message of Easter is that of the empty tomb: God has raised Jesus from death, defeating the powers of evil and giving fresh hope to a broken world.

It is this message of forgiveness and a new beginning, not judgment and death, that Christianity offers the world. The difficult message that the Churches' Advertising Network has grasped is to convey this message, through the medium of poster advertising to people who are not Church members. Although I would be the first to admit that the Churches still have a lot to learn in using this medium, I believe the campaign succeeds in its aim.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD THOMAS (Co-ordinator,
Churches' Advertising Network),
Diocesan Church House,
North Hinksey, Oxford,
March 13.

From Lady Petre

Sir, He didn't say "Surprise!" He said, "I told you so..."

Yours faithfully,
MARCIA PETRE,
Writtle Park House,
Highwood,
nr Chelmsford, Essex,
March 10.

From Mr Richard Crawford

Sir, There doesn't seem very much left for us agnostics not to believe in.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD CRAWFORD,
Old Post Office,
Church Street, Coleford, Somerset,
March 10.

Priest's freehold

From the Reverend Prebendary A. Edwards

Sir, The Reverend Stephen Trotter (letter, March 7) is right to say that the freehold ensures a security as regards housing, but much more important the freehold enables a priest to preach the Gospel without fear or favour.

Yours faithfully,
ALBERT EDWARDS,
Broom Cottage,
Mount Street, Welshpool, Powys,
March 7.

Numbers games

From Mr Bernard Goodsall

Sir, Alan Coren's well observed piece of March 8 on the difficulty of remembering a string of numbers was a delight.

Over sixty years ago the first long number I committed to memory was my mother's Co-op divi share number, 20573. There were times when I gave anagrams of the last three digits — much, I hasten to say, to my mother's consternation.

Today I have no trouble in remembering the six-digit combination lock on my briefcase. My problem is that I usually lock my reading glasses inside and have to ask someone to line up the infuriatingly small numbers in order to retrieve them.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD GOODSALL,
101 Strove Road,
Cleveland, Avon,
March 9.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Decisions over treatment of 'child B'

From Mr Andrew Farkas, FRCS, MRCOG

Sir, The sad case of child B [reports, March 10, 11, 13] highlights the understandable, but ill-founded, expectation of modern society that patients should not die. The National Health Service is extremely well funded in absolute terms. The ability, however, to deliver high-technology care has outpaced the available resources and our ability always to make appropriate decisions for the benefit of patients, both individually and as a group.

The medical profession cannot completely abdicate responsibility. It has conspired with the public it serves so well to raise expectations. This is not surprising as doctors respond to the challenge of pushing forward barriers of knowledge.

Simon Jenkins ("Life and death is not for lawyers", March 11) is correct that these issues are not best argued in the adversarial forum of a court. These far-reaching implications of medical advances extend beyond the professions, whether medical or legal, and need to be considered by all of us.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW FARKAS,
20 Grantham Street, N1,
March 11.

From Dr R. D. Turner

Sir, The decisions taken in the cases of the 10-year-old girl refused further treatment for leukaemia and of the man with head injuries who could not be found a bed in London (reports, March 10) are only two examples of those which face clinicians and health authorities every day. They raise some important questions.

Who should decide to pay or not to

pay for a given treatment? Should it be the doctors caring for individual patients, purchasing authorities and fundholding practices, or the courts?

If such difficult decisions are to be made, then should each case be decided on its merits or should firm rules be laid down — eg, that the treatment should have been demonstrated to have been successful in 50 per cent of patients or more with similar conditions in a properly controlled clinical trial — which would probably rule out most treatments now available for any condition.

Most importantly, should prospective patients or their parents be informed as to how decisions will be taken before they find themselves in extremis? This would be the ultimate patient's charter and would at least allow them to consider the possibility of taking out private health insurance.

Yours etc,
R. D. TURNER,
University of Hull,
Department of Social Policy
and Professional Studies,
Hull HU6 7RX.

From Mr Jeremy Jenkins

Sir, Since both the medical profession and the Government seem still to be reluctant to make advance directives (living wills) legally enforceable, many patients are subjected to medical treatment contrary to their express wishes. Meanwhile, due to a lack of resources others are being refused medical treatment that they do want. Where is the logic?

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY JENKINS,
21 Castleton Road,
Middleleaze, Swindon, Wiltshire.

Shortage of beds for the acutely ill

From Mr Nigel Harris

Sir, The tragic and possibly preventable death of the patient following a head injury and transfer 200 miles to a hospital (report, March 10) highlights the inadequate state of trauma services in parts of the UK.

This was stressed in the British Orthopaedic Association (BOA) report published in 1992. Audit showed that 12 per cent of patients were judged to have significant preventable disability; it amounted to 108,000 patients a year whose serious disability could be prevented by the elimination of deficiencies uncovered by the report. Among the deficiencies in NHS hospitals were inadequate numbers of intensive care beds, also pointed out in 1992 by the Royal College of Surgeons report into perioperative deaths.

Professional boxers now have resuscitation teams at the ringside. Their value was recently demonstrated when the life of a boxer with serious brain damage was saved by prompt skilled medical attention (reports, February 27). If it is appropriate for boxers to have these facilities, it must be so for the rest of us.

It is not for health authorities to implement the BOA report recommendations to correct the scandalous state of affairs revealed by the report, even if they have the funds to do so. It is the responsibility of the Department of Health and Government to provide the resources for these eminently sensible, lifesaving, morbidity reducing recommendations on a national basis. Every week in my medico-legal practice I see patients making claims for negligence which all too obviously are the result of some of the Health Service reforms, such as the commercialisation of health care which has

led to inadequate provision of resources in certain vital areas.

We must all hope that this madness will stop. I implore the Government to listen to the medical profession before more patients die unnecessarily and stem the rise in preventable disability.

Yours faithfully,
N. H. HARRIS,
(Consultant orthopaedic surgeon),
72 Harley Street, W1,
March 10.

From Dr A. M. Royston

Sir, Although some marked benefits have accrued since the NHS reforms began some three or four years ago it is clear that major problems remain in the provision of medical services to seriously ill people.

Whilst cases as dramatic as last week's head injury in Kent are not every day occurrences, the same is true of the daily ordeal of GPs trying to get acutely ill patients admitted to an ever-decreasing number of hospital beds.

Surely the time has come to set aside those NHS advisers whose sole function appears to be to tell Government only what it wants to hear, and to start listening instead to the medical profession, whose advice will be quite simply that until adequate funding is made available, there can be no solution to the problem of accessing care.

Yours faithfully,
A. M. ROYSTON
(Chairman,
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
Local Medical Committee),
Danemore House, Newham Road,
Truro, Cornwall,
March 13.

Whitehall leaks

From Sir Geoffrey Chipperfield

Sir, Your reviewer of Mr Jon Soper's recent book on Tony Blair ("Is Bamboozled", February 9) cited the author's assertion that Mr Blair had been able to gain advantage over Mr Parkinson during the debates on the Electricity Bill in 1988-89 because of leaks of documents by civil servants.

There were many leaks of documents both during the passage of the Bill and during the privatisation process. Invariably, however, these were documents that had been widely circulated to the electricity industry and the many advisers concerned. There was never any evidence that the leaks came from the Department. Mr Soper has not provided any.

It would be an abuse of the trust which must exist between a Minister and his policy advisers and a serious dereliction of duty for a civil servant to seek to frustrate the policies of his Minister by leaking documents. It is an insult to those who worked on the Bill and consequent privatisation to say that they were guilty of such actions.

To imply, as Mr Soper does, that such actions are a matter of course will make it more difficult for future Ministers to work together with their officials on the basis of trust which I believe at present exists.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY CHIPPERFIELD
(Permanent Secretary,
Department of Energy, 1989-91),
c/o United Oxford and Cambridge
University Club,
Pall Mall, SW1,
March 7.

Letters for publication may
be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

National strategy to improve literacy

From the Director of the National Literacy Trust

Sir, Reading Recovery, ensuring that six-year-olds reach basic standards in literacy, which you support in your excellent editorial, "R for recovery" (March 9), is an important component of what should be a coherent national strategy to improve reading levels. We need a co-ordinated programme, consisting of a number of interdependent parts including Reading Recovery.

Consider the following aspects of our education system: the UK has amongst the lowest levels of publicly funded pre-school education in Europe, and primary school resourcing levels are generally deteriorating across the country.

Primary teachers, because of their enormous professional dedication, are working longer and longer hours under more and more stress, more and more governors are resigning as a consequence of the desperately difficult budget decisions they must face. School and public libraries, foundation stones for the development of literacy skills, are in many cases looking threadbare and incapable of providing the resource support that literacy or wider educational needs require.

If we seriously want to lift literacy standards, and we must, we cannot afford to ignore the wider picture.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL McCLELLAND,
Director,
National Literacy Trust,
1a Grosvenor Gardens, SW1,
March 10.

From Mrs Vera Quin

Sir, The excellent Reading Recovery course depends for success on teaching one pupil at a time, in a quiet room, half an hour daily, five days a week, 16 weeks on the trot.

This lavish time allowance never came my way — nor to my knowledge to any of my colleagues — during 21 years of specialist teaching of reading. Also the requirement to withdraw the pupil to a distraction-free space is these days positively countermanded by many schools, educational psychologists and local education authority advisers/inspectors.

So let's stop, think and consult before millions of pounds are spent on Reading Recovery, or on any one other course or teaching method. Children fail to progress with reading for a wide variety of reasons, calling for individually tailored responses.

If the grasshopper approach must be chosen, how about having a skilled reading teacher, buttressed by books and games, in all after-school and holiday play centres?

Yours faithfully,

VERA QUIN,
Learning Assessment Clinic,
St Thomas' Hospital,
Lambeth Palace Road, SE1,
March 9.

By any other name

From Mrs Sarah Johnson

Sir, Philip Howard (March 10) thinks "Bower names" now sound like "the names of elderly bedmakers at Cambridge colleges". Uncharacteristically, he is some years out of date.

Were he to visit any London nursery school, especially a private one, and snop down to read the names on the knee-high coat hooks he would see that Rose, Poppy, Daisy, Violet and Lily are these days more likely to be making beds for toddlers, assisted by other Edwardian ladies such as Matilda, Grace, Maud, Rosamund, Florence and Edith, and hindered by empire-builders such as Arthur, Alfred, Oswald and Bertie.

The truth is that popular names are not the same as fashionable names. Parents seeking the latter nowadays look for inspiration not in the birth column, but in deaths.

Yours faithfully,
SARAH JOHNSON,
46 Aldbourne Road, W12.

Postcode problems

From Mr Trevor Coley

Sir, It seems to me that the UK has an unnecessarily complicated and ill-conceived postcode system. Other countries, irrespective of size and population density, have numerical codes: when letters are used (to indicate the country, state or locality) they are added as a prefix or suffix, rather than mixed with the figures. Is it S or S? Z or Z? O or O?

I wonder if the committee responsible for the system's creation is prepared to justify its choice.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
TREVOR COLEY,
Wits End, 5 Wheatcroft Close,
Abingdon OX14 2BE,
March 9.

Long odds

From Mr C. A. Cameron

Sir, You do not need to be an astrologer to work out why racehorse trainers are often born in early March (letter, March 10). The Epsom Derby takes place nine months prior to this, in early June.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN CAMERON,
Ingelwood House,
Holland Street, Kensington, W8,
March 11.

OBITUARIES

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL BRIAN GAIT

Lieutenant-Colonel Brian Gait, DSO, DCM, commanding officer 2nd Regiment Royal Military Police, 1972-74, died on March 12 aged 63. He was born on August 12, 1931.

AT THE time of his death Brian Gait was the only officer of the Royal Military Police to have received the DSO, and the only soldier to have won both the DSO and the DCM since the end of the Second World War. His active service career began in the ranks of the Black Watch in some of the toughest fighting of the Korean War. It continued in Kenya where he was involved in the dangerous work of tracking down Mau-Mau terrorists. Finally, in the RMP, Gait was involved in policing the streets of Belfast at a time when the IRA's fortunes and confidence had been considerably enhanced in the aftermath of Bloody Sunday in Londonderry.

Throughout all this time, until his career was prematurely curtailed by a series of strokes, Gait displayed a degree of dedication and professionalism that was remarkable, even in a vocation where both attributes are commonplace.

Brian Arthur Gait was born in Liverpool and educated at Alsop Grammar School. He enlisted in The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) at the age of 18 in 1949 and was an acting sergeant aged 21 when he won the DCM with the 1st Battalion in Korea just over three years later. The 1st Black Watch faced some of the fiercest battles of the bitterly fought Korean War, including the second battle of the Hook in November 1952.

The low, scrub-covered hill known as the Hook dominated the Samchi-on valley, which was the natural invasion route from north to south Korea. It lay in the centre of the front held by the 1st Commonwealth Division, and the Chinese fought three separate battles attempting to take it. In the second battle, the 1st Black Watch was holding the Hook and the four spurs that ran forward from the main feature. The



spur codenamed "Ronson" was the responsibility of Sergeant Gait's platoon and he had shown skill and coolness under shellfire when extracting a patrol under his command, containing five wounded men, during the night of November 16-17.

The platoon commander was seriously wounded on the night of November 18-19 during an attack in strength by a division of the Chinese 40th Army. Gait took over command and almost at once was ordered to carry out an immediate counter-attack to clear the enemy from the feature. As soon as the artillery defensive fire lifted, he swept forward with his platoon, killing and chasing the enemy back to the forward trench. He then quickly organised the defence of the ground retaken, made contact with the flanking platoons and reestablished the position.

The citation for the award of his Distinguished Conduct Medal, at that time ranking next to the VC for

gallantry by a non-commissioned officer (the recently instituted Conspicuous Gallantry Cross will in future occupy this position for both officers and ranks of all services) read: "On every occasion when in close contact with the enemy, Sergeant Gait has shown himself to be a fearless, inspiring and highly efficient leader. All ranks have the greatest admiration for the outstanding qualities of this fine young fighting man."

From Korea, Gait accompanied The Black Watch to Kenya where the Mau-Mau insurrection was at its height, providing further opportunity for him to develop his leadership skills in a radically different environment from Korea. The cat and mouse game of seeking and hunting down the Mau-Mau murder gangs in the rainforest of the Abadare mountain range called for patience, stamina and, if success was to be the outcome, some information as to the terrorists' likely intentions or whereabouts. Unknown to Gait at the time, this was to be a useful apprenticeship for a more deadly campaign closer to home.

After he returned from Kenya Gait was commissioned into The King's (Liverpool) Regiment but shortly afterwards transferred to the Corps of Royal Military Police, which at that time drew its officers on secondment or transfer from other regiments. Gait set out to learn new skills with characteristics thoroughness and had established a formidable reputation in his new corps by the start of the troubles in Northern Ireland in 1969.

The RMP quickly became prominent in the early part of the campaign, providing a trained police presence in areas where the Royal Ulster Constabulary could no longer operate without a close military escort. Gait was appointed Deputy Assistant Provost Marshal (Operations) for the Province in 1969 and assumed command of the 2nd Regiment RMP in 1972. The 2nd Regiment had been formed specifically to operate as a police force in East Belfast. The city was a dangerous place in dangerous times. The Provisional

IRA was then on a rising tide of strength and support from the republican community. Bloody Sunday in Londonderry in January 1972 had cost the Army some local public confidence, while the car bomb and the sniper's rifle induced fear and uncertainty.

Gait arrived by sea to take over his command, collecting his automatic pistol at the quayside. He led from the front on the outset, spending virtually every day on the streets with his military policemen, except for brief periods of leave, for two and a half years. His day on the street began at 6am and he seldom saw his headquarters until after nightfall. Such a punishing routine could be maintained only by absolute dedication and frequently it brought him into direct contact with the IRA. During a gun battle in north Belfast he was closely enough involved to shoot one of the terrorist gunmen, quite deliberately, in what he afterwards described as the "lower abdomen" but showed compassion by visiting the man in the secure wing of Musgrave Park Hospital the next day.

His award of the DSO, the first ever to an officer of the Royal Military Police, was published in the Northern Ireland operation list in 1975. The citation read quite simply: "For outstanding service as the first commissioned officer of 2nd Regiment RMP."

Two operational tours totalling four and a half years in a period of six undoubtedly took toll of Gait's health. Shortly after leaving the Province for a second time, he suffered the first of a series of mild strokes which resulted in his medical discharge in 1979. He served as a retired officer in a senior post in the Directorate of Army Recruiting until 1990, when ill-health again forced an early retirement to live in North Wales. There he became closely involved with the North Wales branch of the RMP Association and became its president.

He married Constance Freda Yates in 1958, shortly after he was commissioned. She survives him together with three daughters of the marriage.

SIR JAMES SCOTT-HOPKINS

Major Sir James Scott-Hopkins, former Conservative MP and MEP, died on March 11 aged 73. He was born on November 29, 1921.



THERE was no more typical Conservative MP than Sir James Scott-Hopkins until he realised that there was life beyond Westminster and became immersed in the politics of Strasbourg and Brussels. He was vice-president of the European Parliament from 1976 until 1979, the year he retired from the House of Commons and became chairman of the European Democratic Group.

Scott-Hopkins pursued what was once a traditional path for a Tory politician — from Eton to Oxford, on to the Army, and then a spell as a farmer before reaching the back benches. He was the son of a colonel who was awarded the DSO and the MC in the First World War, and Scott-Hopkins himself became a professional soldier.

After a short period at New College in 1939 he realised that Oxford was not for him during a war and promptly enlisted. He was commissioned into the Gurkha Rifles and served on the North-West Frontier and in Burma. He decided that he wanted a military career and just before the end of the war received a regular commission in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

He stayed in the Army until 1959 and then resigned to become a farmer. Although he always remained close to the land, with riding and shooting his main recreations, his eye was already on the House of Commons. In 1955 he fought Bedwelly and received the

ritual trouncing for a Tory in South Wales — he was defeated by more than 23,000. But in the 1959 election he entered the Commons for North Cornwall.

His majority was just under a thousand, however, and it was obvious he would never have an easy ride there. He hung on by 669 votes in 1964 but in 1966, with Harold Wilson enjoying the only sweeping victory of his five campaigns, the inevitable happened and Scott-Hopkins was out by 1,508, defeated by John Pardoe, then a rising young star in the Liberal Party.

Scott-Hopkins did not stay away from the Commons for long. The following year he was chosen to fight Derbyshire West in a by-election caused by the resignation of Aidan Crawley, the former Labour MP turned Tory. Scott-Hopkins experienced for the first time the luxury of fighting a traditional Conservative seat and duly sailed back with a majority of more than 10,000. He held the seat easily for the rest of his time at Westminster.

He is survived by his wife Geraldine, to whom he was married in 1946, and by his three sons and his daughter, Jennifer Smith, who is the wife of the Conservative MP for Beaconsfield.

SIR FREDERIC HARMER

Sir Frederic Harmer, CMG, deputy chairman of the P&O shipping company, 1957-71, died on February 24 aged 89. He was born on November 3, 1905.

THROUGHOUT the 1960s Frederic Harmer played a key part in the modern development of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company. During his years as deputy chairman he was instrumental in the formulation of key policies not only for P&O but for the shipping industry overall. His exceptional mathematical and financial skills complemented the leadership and vision of the company chairman of the period, Sir Donald Anderson, as P&O evolved from a loosely-linked assortment of passenger and cargo liner companies into a highly competitive group.

In the mid-1960s Harmer set up a small team within the New Zealand Shipping Company, part of the P&O group,

to assess the economics of using nuclear power on the cargo route between the UK and New Zealand. The study established that, although nuclear power was not economically viable, it was a significant element in the decision to found Overseas Containers Ltd (OCL) in 1965, with P&O as one of four partners.

Fredrick Evelyn Harmer was the younger son of Sir Sidney Frederic Harmer. He was educated at Eton and King's College, Cambridge, graduating with a double first in mathematics (he was a Wrangler) and economics in 1927. On graduation he briefly joined the Export Credits Guarantee Department, and afterwards worked for a small overseas trading bank.

In 1939 he entered the Treasury as a personal assistant to Maynard Keynes and was a temporary assistant secretary, 1943-45. Lord Keynes was his economic mentor, stimulating his think-

ing immensely. Harmer served in Washington in 1944 and again in 1945, during the Anglo-American economic and financial negotiations.

In 1946 he joined the New Zealand Shipping Company. He became deputy chairman in 1947 and chairman in 1953. On one visit to the NZS Company's agents in North America, he left his hat — a black homburg of the sort made famous by Anthony Eden — in a New York taxi. Asked by his host whether he remembered the cab's five-digit number, he didn't — except that it was divisible by 37. Some calculations duly ensued, and both taxi and hat were speedily traced.

Harmer's knowledge and expertise extended far beyond mathematics. An early classical education and an interest in botany enabled him to correct the Latin description of a plant depicted on menu cards aboard the company's passenger ships.

He was appointed to the board of P&O in April 1955



and became a deputy chairman in May 1957.

He resigned from the New Zealand Shipping Company in March 1966 to concentrate on P&O Group activities. During a period in Australia he was very largely instrumental in making the management appointments that were to lead to the transformation of P&O's local agents into the successful diversified group

that is P&O Australia today. Harmer was chairman of the Committee of European Shipowners, 1965-68, and chairman of the International Chamber of Shipping, 1968-71. He was knighted in 1968.

He served as a government director of British Petroleum, 1953-70, and sat on the boards of the National Westminster Bank and of the London Life Association.

He was vice-chairman of the governors of the London School of Economics, and was made an honorary fellow in 1970. He was also chairman of the governors of West Heath Girls' School, Sevenoaks.

Freddie Harmer was an enthusiastic sailor, owning at one time the celebrated wooden Bermuda cutter *Dryad* which was built in 1931 for the shipping magnate Sir James Caird, and sailing her to much of northern Europe. In his earlier years he played much tennis, qualifying for the doubles at Wimbledon one year although he was unable to compete as he did not have enough leave available. He took up golf "once he could no longer run up to the net quickly enough", achieving a single-figure handicap.

He was an excellent linguist, fluent in German and Serbo-Croat, and was known on one occasion to have held an impassioned discussion with non-English-speaking Russian shipping officials on the subject of edible fungi, and on another acted as translator between a Polish stowaway and the captain of a P&O container ship, in a kind of broken Russian. After his first stroke in 1990 Harmer was unable to speak but he could still write, and as part of his therapy his wife asked him to write out the nursery rhyme "Humpty Dumpty". He started in English, and finished in German.

In 1931 he married Barbara Susan Hamilton. She died in 1972 and in 1973 he married Daphne Shelton Agar, who survives him, together with a son and two of the three daughters of his first marriage.

MYFANWY TALOG

Myfanwy Talog, Welsh television and stage actress, died from cancer on March 11 aged 49. She was born on March 31, 1945.



Myfanwy Talog with David Jason

MYFANWY TALOG was a Welsh actress who had occasionally appeared in British situation comedies such as *Bread*, *Butterflies* and *Waiting for God*. In Wales she was regarded as one of the country's finest actresses both by Welsh and English-speaking audiences.

Indeed she was so well known that she had the distinction of having both a railway locomotive and a sparkling wine named after her. Earlier this year she was nominated for a Welsh Baita award as best actress for her performance as a gypsy opposite Edward Woodward in *Tan Ar Y Comin*.

She was born in Caerwys, Clwyd. Her father was a school attendance officer and bus conductor, and she was educated at Mold Alun Grammar School. After leaving she trained in Barry as a teacher, a profession to which she returned when resting between parts during her early years as an actress.

Her acting career really began in the late 1960s, and by the early 1970s she was well established in the BBC Wales studios during what proved to be the most productive period in Welsh television's light entertainment history. She appeared in many of the long-running Welsh television series of the 1970s and 1980s. Later she played a good deal of comedy, but she was also an excellent straight actress. Her last role, in *S Loves B*, was as the mother of an adolescent boy with brain damage.

Her career was really launched with the huge success of *Ryan and Ronnie*, a comedy double act on Welsh and English television in the early 1970s. She worked on the launch of the children's television series *Telford*, and appeared in *Coleg*, one of the earliest soaps transmitted by

S4C, the Welsh equivalent of Channel 4. There was also *The Magnificent Evans* with Ronnie Barker, and numerous period dramas for BBC Wales. *Gwen Tomos*, *Enoch Huws* and *Lleifor* among them.

In the latter half of the 1980s, she became a national institution in S4C's soap opera *Dinas*, in which she played Cynthia Doyle, a characteristically salt-of-the-earth Welsh woman. She had a musical voice, and did a good deal of radio work and voice-overs for such children's cartoons as *Wil Cwac Cwac*. There was a series for schools, *Un Dau Yr*. Her theatre work included *The Wizard of Oz* and *Cinderella* at Cardiff New Theatre, and roles at Cardiff Sherman Theatre, Theatre Clwyd and Theatre Gwynedd. At the latter she gave a highly-acclaimed performance as Maggie Huws, the MP's wife, in a play by Saunders Lewis, *Excelsior*. She also played in Lewis's *Dwy Bridadas Ann* and *Merch Gwyn Hwyl*.

Myfanwy Talog was a handsome woman, with striking blue eyes and natural red hair which later turned to blonde. She was a vivacious hostess both at her cottage near Cardiff and at her home in Buckinghamshire which she shared with David Jason. Friends felt that she might have had a second career as an interior decorator. She was devoted to a three-legged dog called Peg, which she adopted after it appeared on her doorstep one day.

Throughout her five-year battle with breast cancer, she worked alongside charities, talking about her illness and trying to remove some of the stigma surrounding it. She met David Jason when he was appearing in a play in South Wales and they remained together for 18 years, being the most private of showbusiness couples. She did, however, accompany him to Buckingham Palace when he was appointed OBE in 1993. There were no children, and he survives her.

FOOTBALL RUGBY UNION RULES.

ENGLAND V. SCOTLAND.

Had victory been for the better side at Edinburgh on Saturday then Scotland would have won; but, as it was, in the great international of the year the teams finished "all even", with a try to each. Fortune, to a certain degree, was kind to England, whose escape from defeat was attributable not only to their own superb defensive powers but to the inability of the Scottish three-quarters to appreciate sundry chances of scoring that occurred. These points were too palpable to be missed by anyone of any pretensions to Rugby football knowledge, and were in fact a subject of common talk in Edinburgh on Saturday evening.

The Scottish forwards thoroughly upheld their traditions for hard forward work and from beginning to end maintained a fast pace in breaking up the scrummages and going on with the ball. The Scottish forward work, however, dominated the match, and completely crippled the English game, the visitors' halves and three-quarters being mostly occupied in stopping what often seemed to be irresistible rushes. G.T. Urwin, the old

ON THIS DAY

March 14 1898

The opening sentence would no doubt have nettled England supporters who might have felt that no side deserves to win if it misses a simple but crucial conversion.

Oxford half, was particularly good, both at the start and subsequent to an injury he received on the head; the concussion, in fact, was so bad that he was off the field for a quarter of an hour, and it was certainly courageous of him to return to the match. The English forwards, although often losing the ball, kept together to the end, and when the scrummage was tight had little the worst of the football, were quick in getting round, and sure in their tackling. Another thing that must

be put down to their credit was that they stayed even better than the Scottish, and towards the finish were scrummaging splendidly.

The Scottish halves and three-quarters never got into a good swing; they seemed afraid to open the play because of the strength of the English under the scrummage, and while the halves did too much dribbling, the three-quarters in their anxiety to check the Englishmen got too far up, and when the ball came out to them they either knocked it on or failed to take the pass.

It was a keen and vigorous match possessed of a great pace, and in the second half the constant attacks of the Scottish made the play very exciting. When the Scottish try was gained in a position completely easy for goal everybody thought the match almost won for Scotland; but even such a good place-kicker as is T.M. Scott missed an easy shot, and so the game hung in the balance to the end.

Everything was favourable for the game; the fine stretch of turf at Powderhall, and the bright, mild weather seemed to vie with each other in securing the chief praise from the company of 17,000 or 18,000 people, which was something like a record attendance for the Rugby international in Edinburgh.

DEATHS

WIMBORNE - Mabel Edith, Dowager, Wimbome, Dorset, 11th March 1995, peacefully at home in Wimbome, after a long illness. Funeral service at St. Andrew's Church, Wimbome, on Thursday 16th March 1995 at 11.00 am. Burial in Wimbome Cemetery. Donations if desired to Wimbome Society for Cancer Relief (Chesterham) c/o Mrs. Treasurer, Villa du Parc, Wimbome, Dorset, DT99 2JG. Tel: 01929 421111.

IN MEMORIAM

FRITCHARD - William John, 1st Lieut. RVR (AL) lost at sea March 14th 1945. Salvaged. In peace and grateful remembrance. Raymond W. Coleman, St. Albans, AL3 4HQ.

IN MEMORIAM

PRIVATE

GREAVES - Obit. Birthday Greetings during the year miss you always. Love CC

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

ALFORD - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of the late Mrs. John Alfred will be held in Wakefield Cathedral on Saturday, 18th April at 12 noon.

BIRTHDAYS

All every year more wonderful in this year by happy birthday, all my love S.

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RENTALS

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PLUMP PARTNERS - National Cleaning Agency. Tel: 01753 555 555.

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ENGLAND V SCOTLAND - 18th March. BOUTCHER & SONS. Tel: 01753 555 555.

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Start-ups expected to accelerate this year

By Rodney Hobson

ABOUT 500,000 new businesses will start up this year, 10 per cent more than in 1994, according to the latest *Small Business Bulletin* from Barclays Bank. The number of closures is expected to stabilise at 400,000, leading to an overall rise to nearly 2.7 million businesses in existence by the end of the year.

David Lavarack, head of small business services at Barclays, says: "Last year set the trend for a steady rise in the growth of the small business sector, which we are confident will continue into 1995. Fuelled by high levels of business optimism as a result of improvements to the economy, future growth in the business stock will arise from an increasing number of start-ups, as opposed to a further significant fall in closures."

All regions saw a rise in the level of start-ups, led by the North and North-West, where the increase was 17 per cent. Barclays says the proportion of women, skilled manual workers and younger people starting up in business has increased over the past year. Women started 27 per cent of new businesses last year, compared with 25 per cent in 1993. It was the first time the proportion had risen since 1988.

Barclays believes this is because the sectors in which women traditionally set up — retail, catering and leisure — are more prevalent in a growing economy. The increase may also be due to more stable economic conditions which have



"How overdue? You offered to pay me in cash in £1 notes."

Hippy trail to travel agency

James Kitchenham reports on a niche firm succeeding in a world dominated by big businesses

An idea dreamt up on the hippy trail to Kathmandu has turned into a thriving specialised travel business 25 years later for Penny Bones, of Wadhurst, East Sussex. Southern Cross Travel, so named after the guiding constellation in the southern hemisphere, is a good example of a niche business in a world dominated by big firms.

Known in the trade as FTIS (for independent travellers), the company organises tailor-made travel itineraries for individuals or groups who wish to travel anywhere south of the equator, predominantly to Australia, New Zealand and the Far East.

Penny said: "People come to me with a certain budget and dates between which they wish to travel, and perhaps ask to fly to Sydney, take a trip to Ayers Rock, possibly visit someone in Perth and then stop over in Singapore on the way home. I work out the easiest way to fit in everything they want to do within their budget, the costs involved and if their plan is practicable, and then, if they agree the price, go ahead and make their bookings." But the road



Penny Bones, a long way from the hills of Kathmandu

to the office of Southern Cross Travel, on the lower ground floor of a house built by Penny's husband, Trevor, has not been easy. "Like thousands of young people in the Sixties, we did an overland trip across Europe as far as Kathmandu and then flew to Australia."

"Talking to some of the drivers, Trevor realised most organised trips went East with passengers, but came back to London empty, so we set up a company in Australia, called Eurasia Overland Tours, concentrating on taking Europeans and Australians homeward-bound to London. Eventually we operated fully in both directions."

Eurasia Overland grew until they were running two full-sized coaches and three minibuses. Then trips began to be interrupted by political unrest. The India-Pakistan war over Kashmir, the Afghanistan war and the first Iran-Iraq war all caused extra flights to be added and began to make the trips uneconomic.

By 1975 Trevor and Penny decided to close Eurasia Overland. Throughout the 1970s and early 1980s Penny and Trevor, now married, spent periods working in the travel trade in Australia and New Zealand, gaining a detailed knowledge of the region. Back in England, they bought a plot of land and built a large house, where Penny, with a growing family, supplemented their income doing bed and breakfast. In 1990 she decided to start again in the travel business and formed Southern Cross Travel.

From the start, the business has been self-financing. The only problem with banks, Penny said, is their habit of charging commission on foreign currency transfers, already paid at source.

Expansion has crossed her mind. "I often think about taking a lease on a high street shop, but then you are stuck there six days a week, nine until five every day. This way fits in well with looking after the family." Gazing across a wooded valley, she added: "And I must have the best view from any travel agency in England."

Southern Cross Travel is on 01892-78 3896

BRIEFINGS

The Development Board for Rural Wales has set a target to create, or safeguard, 1,500 jobs a year, particularly in the field of manufacturing. The board plans to build 150,000 to 200,000 sq ft of business premises every year to support 300 to 500 jobs. Factories are to be built in areas of need, particularly the West. Owner occupation of factories will be encouraged, together with plans for a prestige business park in every large town.

The Federation of Small Businesses is holding its twenty-first annual conference at Torquay, Devon, from March 24-26. Earl Ferrers, the Minister for Consumer Affairs and Small Firms, will outline government policy on small businesses. Topics to be debated include Europe, Taxes, business rates and the environment.

British Telecom is cutting the £99 per line connection charge on March 27 for businesses installing more than one telephone line. The discount for two to five lines is 20 per cent, and for six or more lines there is a 30 per cent discount.

Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire training and enterprise councils have launched Capital Match, a business angels service. Contact: 01483 728190.

Solotek, the training and enterprise council for South London, has been awarded the national Investors in People standard.

EDITED BY DEREK HARRIS

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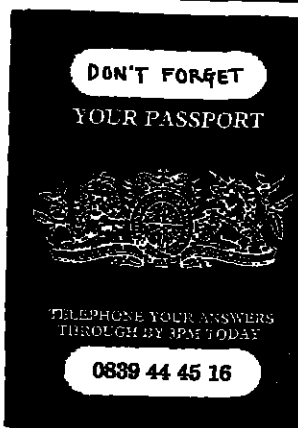
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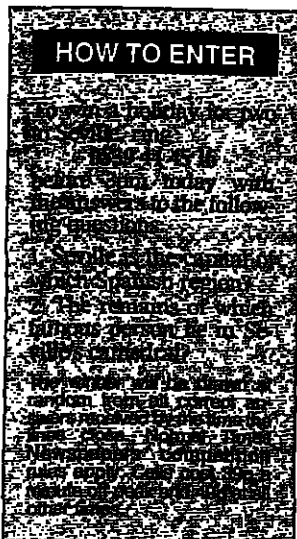
Don't forget your passport

Win a trip to Andalusia and go today

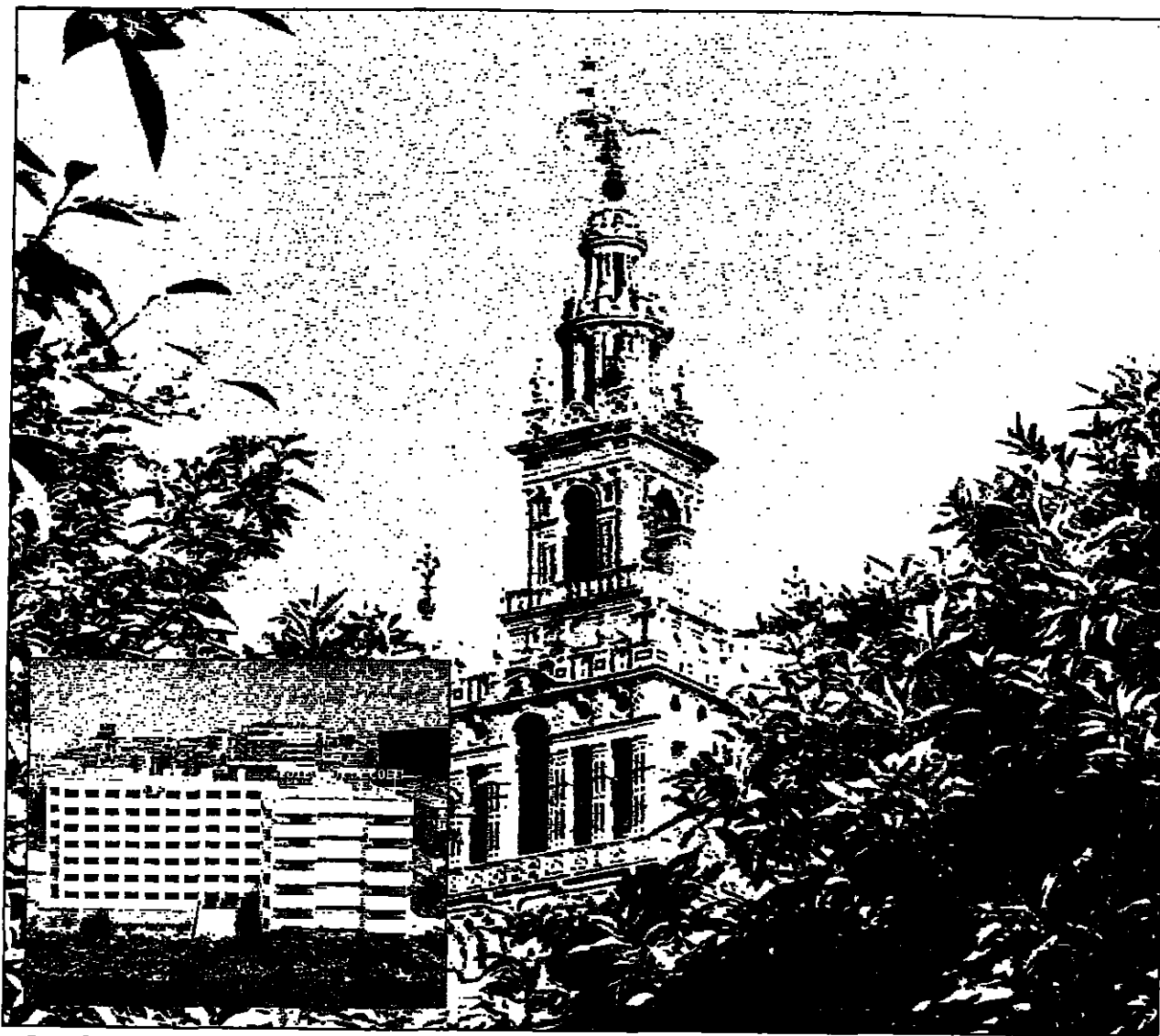
David Roth, from Reading, and his son are off to San Francisco to visit his sister, after winning yesterday's competition. Today it could be your turn



break for two at a four-star luxury hotel in Madrid, a vibrant spectacle of Castilian tradition and colour and a city with a marvellous cultural heritage.



It is home to the Prado museum, one of the greatest collections of art in the world, with galleries devoted to Goya, Velasquez and El Greco. The new Reina Sofia museum of contemporary art features work by Dali, Miro and Picasso and the city's sights include the imposing Royal Palace, spectacular fountains and the great plaza the heart of the old quarter.



One of Seville's high points: the soaring tower of the Giralda. Inset: central but tranquil, the four-star Hotel Porta Coeli

TODAY and every day for the next three weeks, *The Times*, in association with Cox & Kings, one of Britain's leading travel firms, will be offering the prize of a holiday each day. Phone in the answers to our questions before 3pm and you will be contacted the same day if you are a winner. In most cases you will be able to choose whether you and your companion start the holiday later that day.

From Madrid to Machu Picchu in Peru, a huge range of short breaks, tours and adventures worth more than £27,000 is waiting to be won. If you cannot leave immediately, it is still worth entering. You will be given the option of taking your holiday at any time during the following two months, subject to availability. Where the prize is a holiday to a distant destination, the winner may have to obtain inoculations and arrange visas before travelling.

Today's competition winner will travel to Seville, the beautiful and romantic capital of Andalusia. For many this beguiling city embodies the best of all things Spanish — fiestas, flamenco, bull fights, oranges and opera; this is the home of Carmen, Don Juan and Figaro.

Our winner can visit the huge gothic cathedral where the remains of Christopher Columbus lie, see the soaring

spire of the Giralda and tour the Alcazar Palace, a monument to Spain's Moorish past. There will be time during the two-night stay to relax at pavement cafes, walk through the Maria Luisa Park and take a horse and carriage ride through the narrow winding streets past picturesque squares, whitewashed houses,

courtyards, and balconies hung with pots full of brilliantly-coloured flowers. The winner and a partner will stay at the four-star Hotel Porta Coeli, one of three hotels in Seville offered by Cox & Kings. This white stucco hotel, though only just over a mile from the centre, has a tranquil atmosphere. All rooms have air-conditioning, a minibar, a bath and television. There is a heated indoor swimming pool. The prize includes scheduled flights, two nights twinshare accommodation and breakfast. Extra nights and excursions are available. Normal prices for the Seville short break are from £285 per person, with single supplements from £30. For details and a booking form, call 071 873 5005 or write to Cox & Kings, Fourth Floor, Gordon House, 10 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1PH.

□ Tomorrow's prize is a short

By train to heart of a lost empire

PERU was at the centre of the Inca empire which flourished before the conquistadores began their quest for South America. Our 12-day tour, to be won on April 1, traces the history of this lost civilization. The winner will see Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world, before taking a train through the Andes to Cuzco, ancient capital of the Inca empire.

After visiting Pisac, our winner will continue by train to the Lost City of Machu Picchu, one of the most awe-inspiring sights in the world. An overnight stay will give the opportunity to see both sunset and sunrise. The journey ends in Lima, Pizarro's "City of the Kings" and notable for its fine colonial architecture.



Free spirit: a tribesman in the mountains of Peru

If you are not the winner on April 1, you can still take the train to Machu Picchu, from £1,705 per person. Prices include scheduled flights, trans-

fers, twinshare accommodation in three and four-star hotels, sightseeing, breakfast, three lunches and two dinners.

Russia's lost masterpieces

ENTER our competition on Saturday and on March 26 and you could travel to St Petersburg on a short break which will include a visit to the "Missing Paintings" exhibition at the Hermitage art gallery.

These two prizes cannot be taken immediately because the Hermitage exhibition does not open until April 1, when 74 paintings by artists including Cezanne, Gauguin, Monet, Renoir, Toulouse-Lautrec, Degas, Van Gogh and Pissarro go on show for the first time in 50 years. Seized from Germany at the end of the Second World War, the priceless works of art had been hidden by the former communist government.

In celebration of the exhibition, Cox & Kings has designed a selection of tours to St Petersburg, which was founded in 1703 by Peter the Great. As well as viewing the rediscovered works of art, the winners will also have time to explore the city and its palaces, canals and elegant architecture. Our three-night breaks are based at the five-star Hotel



The Hermitage: home of one of Europe's greatest art collections

Marco Polo Nevsky Palace and include flights with British Airways, transfers, breakfast and sightseeing, plus a full day at the Hermitage.

If you do not win the prizes you can still go to St Petersburg with Cox & Kings. Prices range between £690 and £740, with single supplements from

£160. For full details, ring 071 873 5002 or write to Cox & Kings, Gordon House, 10 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1PH.

Golden legacy of a rich past

THE 17th century was the golden age of Amsterdam, when trade with the East Indies brought huge wealth. Its architectural legacy is still evident throughout the city, where gabled houses built by merchants line the canals.

The wealth gave work to artists as well as artisans and Holland was the home of Van Gogh, Rembrandt and Vermeer. The winner of our competition on March 21 will be able to see their work in the city's excellent galleries, including the Rijksmuseum.

One of three hotels offered by Cox & Kings in Amsterdam is the five-star deluxe Hotel Pulitzer on the Prinsengracht, Amsterdam's prettiest canal. Breaks in Amsterdam cost from £270 per person, with a single supplement of £70.

Take a short break to beautiful cities around the world

VIENNA is a showcase of imperial grandeur, with baroque palaces and impressive collections of art and treasures. Enter *The Times* competition on March 31 and you could be exploring the city of Schubert, Mozart, Haydn, Brahms and Beethoven that evening.

Trams still trundle round the Ring and bowler-hatted cabbies drive their horse-drawn carriages around town. One of three hotels offered by



A slow waltz through Vienna: enjoy a horse-drawn tour

Cox & Kings in the Austrian capital is the four-star Maria Theresa Hotel in the centre of the old town. The hotel has a restaurant, snack bar and cafe. All rooms are comfortably furnished and have private facilities and a minibar. Prices, from £315 per person, include scheduled flights, two nights twinshare accommodation and breakfast. Extra nights and excursions are available on request.

BOSTON, with its hilly cobblestone streets and Victorian townhouses, is historically important because of its role in the American struggle for independence.

Enter the competition on Friday and you could walk the Freedom Trail at the weekend, visit Harvard, America's oldest university, take a harbour

cruise and see the Boston Tea Party ship and museum.

One of three hotels offered by Cox & Kings is the five-star deluxe Westin Hotel in the fashionable Back Bay area. The hotel overlooks Trinity Church and is a few minutes' walk from the Freedom Trail. Its facilities include an indoor

covered oriental market, the Grand Bazaar.

Alternatively, you might decide to just stroll along the bustling waterfront, take a short cruise on the Bosphorus or sample traditional Turkish music and cuisine.

One of three hotels offered by Cox & Kings is the first-class Pera Palas. Built in 1892 for passengers arriving on the Orient Express, it has consistently entertained royalty, statesmen and artists from all over the world. It still maintains much of its traditional Eastern decor with elegant antique furniture and fittings. Rooms are decorated in traditional style and there is 24-hour room service, a minibar, a radio and, in some rooms, television sets.

Prices start at £360 per person, with a £30 single supplement, and include scheduled flights, two nights twinshare accommodation and breakfast. Extra nights and excursions are available.

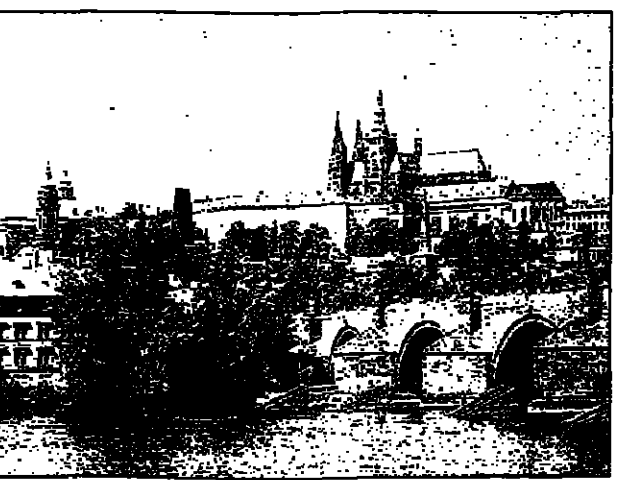
PRAGUE, an architectural gem set amid Bohemia's rolling countryside, and perhaps Europe's most beautiful city, is the destination for the winner of our competition on March 22. Its stunningly preserved buildings are a harmony of architectural styles: baroque, gothic, renaissance, romantic and art nouveau. It has attracted artists, musicians and intellectuals for centuries — Mozart loved the city and Dvorak lived and composed there.

Our winner can visit Hradcany Castle, see the gothic Cathedral of St Vitus and stroll around the old town, a charming middle of streets and squares. Sweeping through the heart of the city is the Vltava river, crossed by the magnificent Charles Bridge, the domain of street vendors

and buskers. There are also excellent restaurants, atmospheric taverns and jazz cafes, and ballet, concert or opera in the elegant State Opera House.

One of four hotels offered by Cox & Kings is the three-star Hotel Julian, a small, centrally located hotel on the same side of the Vltava as Hradcany castle. The hotel is in a century-old building with an art nouveau facade. The interior has recently been renovated and the comfortable rooms all have telephone and television. Prices start from £335 per person, with single supplements from £20, including scheduled flights, two nights twinshare accommodation and breakfast.

BRUSSELS is an unusual mixture of the international and the provincial, with cobbled streets and canals next to



Jewel of a city: Hradcany Castle is one of Prague's gems

the modern commercial centre — and you could be exploring it next weekend if you win our competition on Thursday.

The city's Grand Place is one of the most ornate market squares in Europe and is the venue of a daily flower market

and a bird market every Sunday morning. Other attractions of the Belgian capital include the Sablon Square Sunday antiques market, the Palais de Justice and the Manneken Pis, the statue of the little boy which dates from 1619 and has become a symbol of the city.

Walk along almost any street and you will be surprised how different each house is from its neighbour. Explore gothic churches, graceful avenues and shops selling lace and handmade Belgian chocolates.

You could sample some of the wide variety of local beers, many of them very strong, in the city's taverns and enjoy the substantial Belgian meals served in its restaurants.

One of three hotels offered by Cox & Kings is the intimate and deluxe Hotel Montgomerie. The rooms are exquisitely decorated and each has a telephone, cable television and a small library. The atmosphere is elegant and welcoming.

The train in Spain



Dining in style: taste the luxury of a bygone age on the Andalus Express

THE ANDALUS EXPRESS is made up of 16 immaculately restored carriages built in Britain and France during the 1920s and 1930s. The winner of *The Times* competition on March 27 will experience its splendid six-day journey through Andalusia, spending two nights at five-star hotels in Seville and three nights aboard the luxurious train.

See Seville, home of the Giralda and the Alcazar Palace; the magnificent mosque at Cordoba; the Alhambra in Granada; the beautiful town of Ronda; and the sherry centre of Jerez.

Prices start at £1,675 per person and include scheduled flights, transfers, twinshare accommodation aboard the train and in five-star hotels, sightseeing, breakfast in hotels and full board on the train.

For a more literal taste of Spain, Frances Bissell, the *Times* cook, will be the teacher when the winners of next Monday's competition attend the Flavours of Spain cookery course in the south of Spain.

Andalusia is renowned for its fine food and the quality of its produce — it has olives, figs, almonds, walnuts and citrus fruits. Its hams are famous throughout the world and the region has delicate varieties of vegetables and fresh fish from both the Mediterranean and the Atlantic.

Our Cox & Kings short break from May 5-10 offers a superb opportunity to experience authentic traditional cuisine in its natural setting, learning how to make the most of a wealth of local delicacies.

The winner will stay in Janet Mendell's home in the hills near Ronda, and the course includes a visit to a local market, lectures, demonstrations and hands-on experience in the kitchen.

It is designed to enhance skills at every stage of the culinary process from the selection of produce to its preparation, presentation and consumption.

Frances Bissell knows Andalusia well and has written many cookery books. Janet Mendell will be the course director for the other tours and has spent the past 25 years in Spain; her recipes have been gathered from local restaurants and kitchens and she has written two books on Spanish cookery and contributes to several magazines.

Tours include scheduled flights from London to Gibraltar, five nights twinshare accommodation, transfers, meals, demonstrations and lectures.

Prices range from £795 to £835 per person. In addition to the Frances Bissell course, there are courses on March 17-22, October 6-11 and November 24-29.

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SDAY MARCH 14 1995

TV LISTINGS

Preview: The Northern...

Review: Northern...

OPINION

Hope and Outrage

Labour's clause

Principles at sea

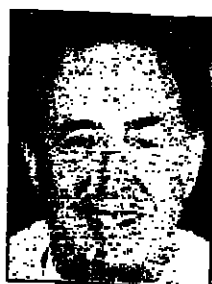
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Faldo keeps up his rediscovered form in the United States

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY MARCH 14 1995

Singapore to hit back on Leeson move

By Neil Bennett in Singapore and Robert Miller

THE Singapore authorities will today deliver a furious official response to the news that Nick Leeson, the Barings futures dealer blamed for the bank's collapse, was sent to Singapore only after his application to be licensed as a derivatives trader by the Security and Futures Authority was withdrawn by Barings.

In 1992 Barings submitted Mr Leeson's SFA application, in which he answered with "No" the question of whether he had any country court judgments outstanding against him. However, the SFA found that there was an outstanding judgment against him for £639, registered in February 1991.

Christopher Sharpley, the SFA chairman, said yesterday: "We told Barings what we had found out and Mr Leeson's application was quietly withdrawn. Within months, he popped up in Singapore."

The disclosure that Mr

Leeson lied to the SFA was revealed in BBC television's *Panorama* programme last night.

Mr Sharpley said: "We might not have automatically banned Mr Leeson from trading if he had declared the country court judgment, but we would have asked him for an explanation and possibly to settle the debt before he started."

He added: "What the Barings affair has taught us is that, given the global round-the-clock nature of markets, we are looking for much closer liaison between regulators."

In Singapore, Mr Leeson's former colleagues at Barings Futures have been ordered to stay at home until further notice. This is in spite of the fact that Internationale Nederlanden Groep, the new Dutch owner of Barings, yesterday incorporated a new futures trading company in Singapore — Barings Futures International and plans to restart

trading on the Simex exchange shortly.

Michael Lim and Nicky Tan, the investigators from Price Waterhouse who were appointed by Singapore's Finance Minister last week, are planning to come to London soon to interview senior Barings directors.

All clients of Barings Futures Singapore will have their claims settled in full this morning under a goodwill package assembled by Price Waterhouse in Singapore, the firm's judicial manager.

The Barings debacle and the safety of UK depositors' money were discussed in the House of Lords at question time yesterday. Lord Monckton (Labour) asked: "Which British banks are secure for deposit of individuals' money, local authorities' money, and charities' money and will be safe and guaranteed by the Bank of England?"

Lord Henley, for the Treasury, replied: "No list exists of such banks. Local authorities are themselves responsible for making their own decisions on the creditworthiness of deposit takers."

He added: "The circumstances which brought Barings down were unique to it and ought not to apply to other banks."

Lord Spens (Independent), a former merchant banker, said that the City was becoming "a second Wimbledon — a place where it's wonderful to come and play if you are a foreigner and can win very large amounts of money, but not much good if you are British."

Michael Foot, deputy director of supervision at the Bank of England, said yesterday that it will not be able to assess all banks' risk-modelling systems before the EU's Capital Adequacy Directive (CAD) takes effect in 1996. He added that only provisional risk-model licences will be granted.

The licences allow banks to use options and swaps models to meet capital adequacy requirements under the CAD. The Bank, which is reviewing risk management systems in some 50 banks in the UK, plans to issue full licences once it has examined all of the 600-odd risk models involved.



Jennifer Laing intends a more hands-on approach to Saatchi & Saatchi clients

Saatchi recalls Laing as chief

By Alexandra Freen
Media Correspondent

SAATCHI & SAATCHI has appointed Jennifer Laing, one of its former stars, as chairman of its UK advertising agency, as the final step in its reorganisation after the departure of Charles and Maurice Saatchi.

Ed Wax, chairman and chief executive of Saatchi & Saatchi Worldwide, said yesterday the company was also buying Laing Henry. Ms Laing's company, for £12 million in shares.

Ms Laing, 46, said she hoped her clients from Laing Henry would follow her to Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising, bringing an extra £40 million in new billings.

Referring to the departure of 11 senior staff from Saatchi & Saatchi in London, including Charles and Maurice Saatchi, the company's co-founders, Ms Laing said: "Important people have left, but they did not run this building. I ran Charlotte Street more recently than Charles and Maurice did."

"We are going to wrap our arms around our clients and listen to what they say."

Ms Laing joined Saatchi & Saatchi as a trainee in 1969 and stayed 17 years. She was appointed joint chairman in February 1987, but left that year. Her contract is for two years at £175,000 a year.

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British Gas direct debit discounts under investigation by regulator

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

DISCOUNTS from British Gas to customers paying their bills by direct debit are being formally investigated by the gas industry's regulator.

The Office of Gas Supply said yesterday that it is mounting an examination of the result of an examination of the 1986 Gas Act of the legality of British Gas's plan, which has been attacked by opposition and consumer groups for being unfair to elderly and poorer gas users.

British Gas provoked a public outcry when it disclosed a proposal to give discounts of up to 5 per cent to customers who switched pay-

ment of their gas bills to bank direct debit.

British Gas argues its costs of pursuing late-paying customers are high, and that those who pay promptly should benefit, but opponents claim that the company is cherry-picking richer customers in advance of the Government's introduction of competition in the UK gas market.

Ogas is mounting the inquiry at the formal request of the statutory Gas Consumers' Council, which received a number of complaints of unfair treatment from gas customers who pay their bills promptly, but do so by cheque

or cash, rather than by direct debit.

Under Section 14 of the 1986 Act, British Gas is not allowed to "show undue preference" or otherwise discriminate against any particular customer or class of customer, which gas consumer representatives maintain makes the direct debit discounts illegal.

The consumers' council is concerned that the Government's current Gas Bill to open up the UK gas market, which received its second Commons reading yesterday, would preclude such an action being brought in the future, since it scraps this section of

the 1986 act. Clare Spottiswoode, the Director-General of Gas Supply, whose adjudication on the issue is expected by the end of the month, has maintained that the direct debit scheme is not against the law, and is in favour of the extension of discount schemes for gas customers.

A formal ruling by Ogas against its DirectPay plan would leave British Gas in considerable difficulty about going ahead with further discount schemes for prompt payers planned for later this year.

Price uncertainty, page 24

Liffe acts over case of meningitis

LIFFE, the City's premier derivatives exchange, has, on medical advice, arranged for all its floor-based staff to receive antibiotic treatment to prevent an outbreak of meningitis from spreading.

It said that one of its traders had been reported to be infected by gram positive bacterial meningitis, likely to be meningococcal meningitis (Coli in Narbrough writes).

The young man, based on the trading floor, is in hospital and his condition is not considered life-threatening.

Liffe, which had a reported case on viral meningitis last month, said there was no link. Against this background, it said there would be no need to close its trading floor. Exchange officials later discovered that the incident of bacterial meningitis was in fact the non-infectious pneumococcal variety, not meningococcal, as initially thought, which means no medical treatment is needed for people who had contact with the infected man.

Trafalgar claims support for new Northern bid

By Martin Waller

TRAFALGAR HOUSE has upped the stakes in its £1 billion struggle to take over Northern Electric, which ended in defeat for a formal takeover bid on Friday, by announcing that it has the support of shareholders speaking for more than 50 per cent of Northern's equity.

The company and its advisers will go to the City Panel on Takeovers and Mergers and ask to be allowed to rebid. Under normal rules, it could not do this for at least a year, after the Northern board's refusal to accept Trafalgar's lower offer.

But Trafalgar claims that the situation is unprecedented, in that last week's decision by the industry regulator to look at electricity prices led to share price collapses across the sector, and the rules should be set aside.

Northern shares plunged

70p to 738p yesterday, the first day of trading since the bid lapsed. The company's difficulties deepened further on news of a possible legal action by an American investor, protesting at the board's refusal to allow shareholders to consider the lower offer.

Wyser-Fraite, an American fund with about 0.9 per cent, has demanded that Northern allow its shareholders to consider that offer and threatened a special shareholders' meeting to try to force the board's hand.

The Americans may try to seek an injunction, or seek damages from Northern directors. Such legal actions by affronted US investors, who are generally quick to seek redress at law, have cost British companies dear in the past.

Pennington, page 25

Lord Spens (Independent), a former merchant banker, said that the City was becoming "a second Wimbledon — a place where it's wonderful to come and play if you are a foreigner and can win very large amounts of money, but not much good if you are British."

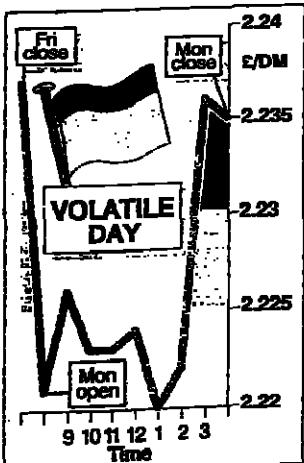
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Inflation pressure in industry eases

By Janet Bush
Economics Correspondent



THE GROWTH of inflationary pressures in industry eased a little last month, but there are still fears that sterling's weakness could lead to higher prices for imported goods in the months ahead.

The pound slumped to a record low of DM2.2155 in Far East trading before recovering during the European afternoon to around DM2.2460. The threat of higher import prices is, however, limited as long as the pound's weakness is confined to the German mark because most commodity prices are still denominated in dollars.

The Central Statistical Office reported that input prices rose by an unadjusted 0.1

per cent in February, depressing their annual increase to 11.4 per cent, from an annual rate of 12.1 per cent in January. However, January input prices were revised upwards.

Unadjusted output prices rose 0.3 per cent, compared with a rise of 0.9 per cent in January, a slightly smaller rise than the City had expected. This meant that the annual increase edged up to 3.6 per cent, from 3.4 per cent in January. Excluding food, drink and tobacco — which gives a better idea of underlying trends — seasonally adjusted output prices were up 0.3 per cent, after a 0.5 per cent rise in January, taking the annual rate to 3.7 per cent, from 3.2 per cent.

Most economists believe that the authorities will raise interest rates by

another notch during the second quarter of this year in response to signs that some price pressures are feeding through the production chain. At the same time, however, there are accumulating signs that economic activity, including manufacturing output, is slowing.

After sterling's initial drop, currency trading calmed down somewhat. The pound did well against the dollar, which closed weaker at \$1.5913 to the pound, against Friday's close of \$1.5820.

The dollar was undermined by a New York Times report saying that four of the seven US Federal Reserve governors that the newspaper had interviewed had shown little interest in raising US interest rates in spite of the US currency's difficulties.

Shopkeeper makes waves in Poole

Bank accused of coining it

LLOYDS has caused something of a stir in Poole after the local branch of the bank purportedly started using inflated charges to discourage local shopkeepers from paying cash into their business accounts (Liz Dolan writes).

Graham Mason, a borough councillor who owns a health food store, said: "The branch told me that all the cash I was putting in every week was costing them a lot of money. They warned me that they would be putting up their

charges in April. They said the alternative was to pay all the cash into my personal account at the Midland and then pay a cheque from there into my Lloyds business account."

The bank said: "This is only concerns one shopkeeper, you know. The guy is now handing a lot more cash than he used to and we have to charge him for it. Mr Mason has always been extremely successful in negotiating minimal charges in the past and we've been servicing his account at a

cost to us. We are now looking to boost the charges to somewhere near break-even. Cash costs a lot to deal with. We have to sort it, check it, store it, transport it and pay security costs."

Lloyds cannot say by how much Mr Mason's charges would have risen in April. Each business has to negotiate its own charges with the branch. Mr Mason, however, plans to throw in his lot with a building society. It seems "simpler all round", he says.

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Yours,
A Shaw

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Sutherland may be pressed to stay on at WTO

By COLIN NARBROUGH

ENVOYS to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) are under increasing pressure to make a last-minute appeal to Peter Sutherland, the interim Director-General, not to step down tomorrow in the absence of agreement on a replacement.

With no sign of the deadlock between America and the European Union unwinding soon, the WTO, which started its activities as the international free trade watchdog on January 1, faces the embarrassment of being left with no helmsman if Mr Sutherland sticks to his plan to leave office. A WTO spokesman

said that Mr Sutherland, the former European Competition Commissioner, had already booked his flight home to Dublin for Thursday and had given no indication of wanting to stay on. He agreed to become the first, temporary head of the WTO only when it became apparent last year that the leading trading powers were divided over the choice of Director-General.

Mr Kesavapany, the Singaporean chairman of the WTO council, was yesterday making final efforts to identify the level of support for the two official candidates for the Director-Generalship. But WTO sources said the exercise was likely to prove academic, given Washington's rejection of Renato Ruggiero, the

European Union contender and former Italian Trade Minister, who has the widest backing among the WTO member states.

Following the withdrawal of Carlos Salinas de Gortari, the former Mexican President and the Clinton Administration's candidate, the only other contender is Kim Sul-Chu of South Korea.

If no consensus emerges by tomorrow, as seems likely, the WTO council will have to decide whether to scrap the present contest, and reopen the search for new candidates.

Desperate to avoid leaving the WTO rudderless in its first few months of operation, the trade diplomats could opt to press Mr

Sutherland to stay at the helm until a proper successor is found.

The alternative of appointing one of the Director-General's three deputies, from Mexico, America and India, is not considered desirable at the WTO headquarters in Geneva, where envoys have sought to establish the prestige of the organisation, which succeeded the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

China agreed yesterday to resume its efforts to join the WTO after reaching a new understanding with America, hitherto the main obstacle to Chinese membership. Washington and Peking agreed to return to the negotiating table in Geneva next month.

Uncertainty over price of cheaper gas

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government and the gas industry's regulator admitted yesterday that it is "uncertain" how far competition in the UK gas market will reduce prices.

In launching the Government's Gas Bill to open up the UK market, which received its second reading in the Commons yesterday, ministers proclaimed that greater competition would lead to substantial price cuts.

Both the Department of Trade and Industry, and the Office of Gas Supply, have publicly broadly accepted predictions by independent gas suppliers that they will be able to offer price cuts of about 10 per cent, compared with current British Gas prices.

The DTI and Ofgas also stress the 10 to 15 per cent price cuts in the industrial and commercial gas markets after the introduction of competition. But while both the department and the regulator insisted yesterday that greater competition would bring benefits to domestic gas consumers, they both said that the actual level of price cuts was uncertain.

In its response published yesterday to the Commons' all-party trade and industry select committee's report on the UK gas market, which said there was no convincing evidence that increased competition would lead to substantial price reductions, the

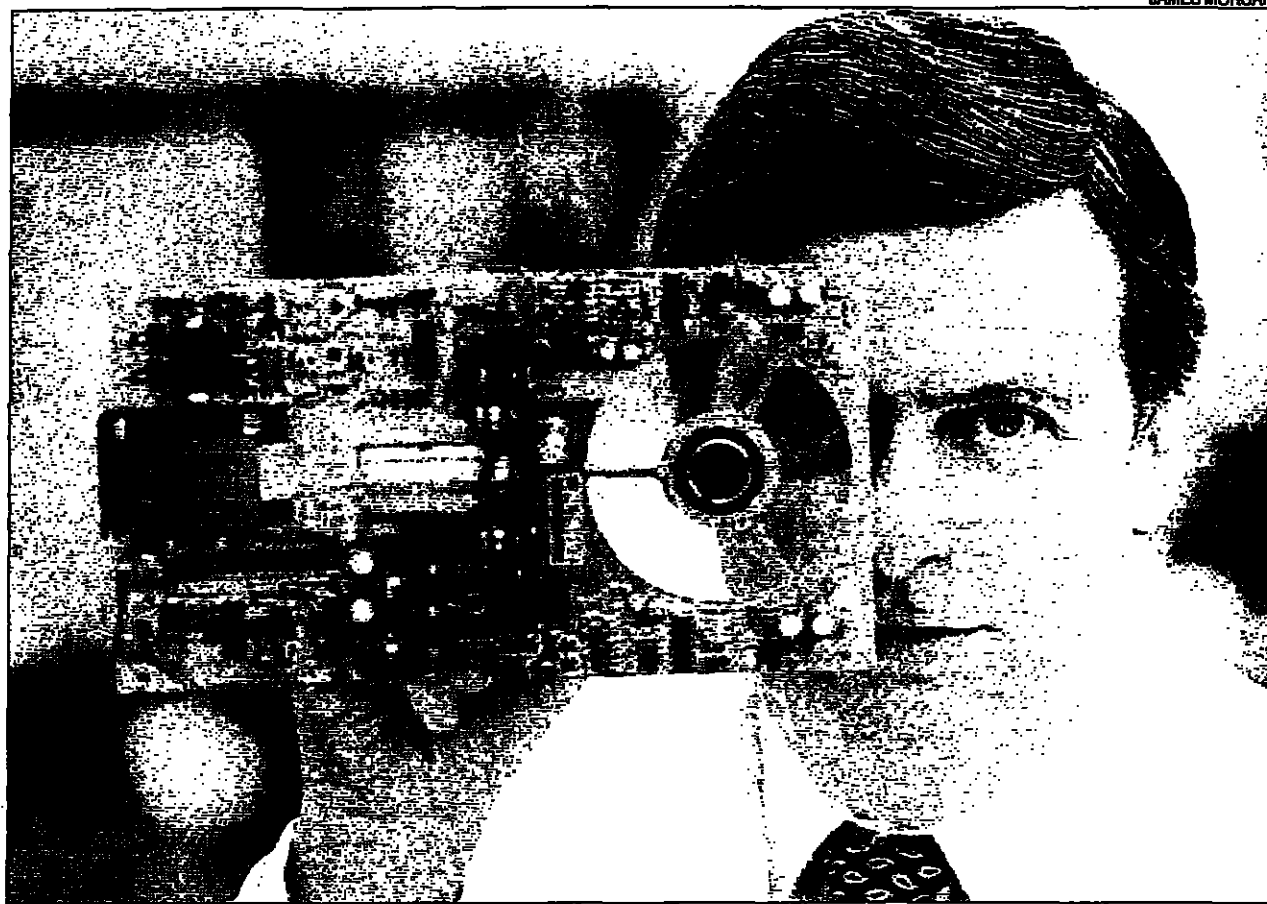
DTI said there is now a "wide degree of consensus" in favour of greater competition. Welcoming the committee's view that greater competition will lead to increased choice and lower costs to consumers, the DTI said that it accepted that by the nature of competition "there must be some uncertainty as to the scale and distribution of the benefits."

Clare Spottiswoode, Director General of Gas Supply, said in a memorandum published by the committee that she too agrees that there will be such benefits "albeit on a scale that is, at present, uncertain."

Labour industry leaders are likely to use the DTI and Ofgas admissions in arguing against the gas Bill during its Commons committee stage, which is likely to start a week today.

Both the DTI and Ofgas denied the charge made by Richard Caborn, the committee's chairman, who accused them of a "political fix" in allowing cross-subsidisation of the transportation part of customers' standing charge.

The DTI insisted yesterday that it had not sought to intervene in Ms Spottiswoode's decision, and the regulator said that the standing charge had not been set with such a purpose in mind, though she said there was "inevitably an element of judgment" in reaching a decision on the standing charge level.



John Poulter, chief executive, detected another target to add to Fairey's growing number of process control companies

Alcatel board backs Suard

By COLIN NARBROUGH

THE board of Alcatel Alsthom, the French energy, telecommunications and transport group, has reaffirmed its confidence in Pierre Suard, the chairman, and said that he will keep his job, in spite of being investigated for alleged involvement in over-billing a major client and underpaying on improvements to his home.

A statement issued after a board meeting yesterday said that the management of the

group's principal subsidiaries, including the Franco-British venture GEC-Alsthom, had been assured that they have the authority to act in the interests of shareholders, customers and staff. Alcatel, France's second-biggest company, makes the TGV high-speed trains.

The board made no reference to allegations by Francois de Laage de Meux, Alcatel's managing director, that a British consultancy company

had last November claimed that the group was the target of industrial espionage and destabilisation by a rival trying to enter France's telecommunications market.

M. Suard yesterday appealed to a Paris court against a ruling that bans him from exercising company responsibilities, his lawyers said.

The board said that, after reviewing judicial restraints on M. Suard, it "renewed its confidence and support for him".

Fairey buys for £18m as profits accelerate

By CARL MORTSHED

FAIREY GROUP is investing £18.2 million to add another business to its growing portfolio of process control companies. It is buying Loma, based in Farnborough, Hampshire, which makes industrial metal detectors and checkweighers for quality control in the pharmaceutical and food industries.

Fairey yesterday announced an 18 per cent rise in profits to £25.8 million for the year. The company is paying £14.5 million in cash and issuing 1.3 million Fairey shares to vendors that control 93.5 per cent of Loma.

A share offer is being made for the balance, consisting of 1.827 million shares for every Loma share, with a cash alternative.

Profits from electronic engineering rose from £10.4 million to £13.4 million on maintained margins of 18 per cent. John Poulter, chief executive, expects an improvement in Loma's margins: the company made profits of £2.2 million on sales of £18.2 million in 1994 and had assets of £3.4 million.

Fairey's aerospace business enjoyed a profits leap from £3.3 million to £4.5 million last year, but Mr Poulter cautioned that such growth would not continue. The dividend is 7p, up 19 per cent.

Tempus, page 26

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	9.22	9.25
Austria Sch	16.64	15.14
Belgium Fr	49.03	44.73
Canada \$	2.33	2.17
Cyprus Cyp	0.751	0.686
Denmark Kr	8.95	8.75
Finland Mk	7.51	6.86
France Fr	8.38	7.73
Germany DM	377.00	352.00
Greece Dr	1.05	0.97
Hong Kong \$	12.98	11.86
India Ru	4.774	4.474
Italy Lit	2745.00	2550.00
Japan Yen	166.00	140.00
Malta	0.500	0.445
Netherlands Gld	2.644	2.414
Norway Kr	10.52	9.72
Portugal Esc	247.00	228.50
Spain Ptas	166.64	153.64
Sweden Kr	12.03	11.23
Switzerland Fr	1.96	1.80
Turkey Lira	1.878	1.546
USA \$	1.878	1.546

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Refuge seeks funds transfer to holders

REFUGE GROUP, the UK life assurance group, is seeking Government approval to transfer surplus reserves in its life fund to shareholders. The decision to start talks with the Department of Trade and Industry follows approval last month to rival United Friendly, which sent shares in the sector sharply higher in anticipation of similar moves by other companies. Refuge's shares raced ahead 39p to 322p on prospects of a bonanza for shareholders. The shares ended at 327p.

Refuge has added a further £12 million to reserves to cover possible compensation payments due to mis-selling of pensions. The insurer's provisions now total £23.4 million, split £10 million for linked business and £13.4 million for non-linked business. Group profits, after tax and exceptional items, rose 22 per cent to £29.7 million in the year to December 31, reflecting a 7 per cent rise in life profits to £26.3 million. The final dividend is being lifted 9 per cent to 8.6p for a 12.3p (11.35p) total. Post-exceptional earnings were 12.68p (10.08p) a share.

Queueing for Rymans

KPMG, receiver to Pentos, are in detailed negotiations with five potential buyers for the Rymans stationary chain. A group of 20 franchisees backed by 31 venture capitalists, are among the bidders, along with NAG Telecom, a leading independent mobile phone retailer. KPMG said all the stores are trading as normal, but industry sources say swift action is needed to secure a sale. A number of senior staff are believed to have resigned and stock levels are running down. NAG Telecom, which runs 25 mobile phone in-store concessions, has approached some landlords to take over the leases.

Candover bucks trend

ECONOMIC recovery and the successful realisation of investments through floatations helped Candover Investments, a trust specialising in management buyouts, buck the market trend with a 22 per cent increase in net assets to 377p a share (310p). In the year to December 31, pre-tax profits advanced 47.1 per cent to £4.86 million as total income grew 39.6 per cent to £10.7 million (£7.67 million). Nine companies in Candover's portfolio achieved successful realisations, including four through floatations on the London stock market. The total dividend is raised to 12.25p (11p) with an 8.1p final (7.05p).

Takare surges to £21m

TAKARE, Britain's largest nursing home operator, has again seen high occupancy levels lift profits. They rose to £21.1 million before tax from £14.9 million in the year to December 31. Turnover rose to £90.1 million, from £72.8 million. Occupancy levels of 97 per cent compared with an industry average of about 90 per cent, the company said. The company now has 6,810 beds in operation with a further 1,740 beds under construction. A final dividend of 1.5p (1.4p) brings the total payout to 2.3p (2.07p). Shareholders will be paid on April 28.

JIB raises margins

JIB GROUP, the quoted insurance broking group in which Jardine Matheson has a majority stake, continued to squeeze more profit out of sales in the year to December 31. Rodney Leach, chairman, said: "Operating margins have improved for the third successive year and we will continue in our efforts to improve efficiency in 1995." JIB lifted pre-tax profits by 12 per cent to £24.4 million on turnover ahead 6 per cent to £26.2 million. The final dividend, payable on May 15, is unchanged at 5p, making an unchanged total of 7.5p. It is being paid out of earnings of 11.5p a share, up from 11.4p.

Domestic & General up

DOMESTIC & GENERAL, the domestic appliance breakdown insurer, reported a 12 per cent increase in profits in the first half in spite of a slowdown in the sales of appliances and the introduction of a new insurance premium tax. Pre-tax profits rose to £4.98 million from £4.45 million in the six months to December 31 on turnover of £34.6 million, up 5 per cent from £32.8 million in the previous period. Earnings per share increased 8 per cent to 47.09p from 43.51p. The interim dividend is lifted to 10.36p (9.25p) and will be paid on May 12.

THE TIMES Win a £6,000 PEP



A Personal Equity Plan (PEP) is a way of investing money out of the reach of the tax man and The Times, in association with TSB Bank, is offering you the chance to win a £6,000 PEP. Answer the questions which appeared on Saturday and which will reappear on Friday, collect four of the six PEP tokens which are appearing each day, and you could win an investment in your choice of three TSB unit trusts:

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THE TIMES Fourth week PEP Token 3 TSB

Lucas was up 3 at 186p after the company said it is entering into talks with America's Electronic Data Systems over the acquisition.

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Nat Wes

Persimmon sees land shortage

Persimmon building company is increasing its share of the UK house building market.

The company's share price has risen 100% in the last year, and it is now one of the most valuable companies in the FTSE 100.

□ The City of London will stay strong if it worries enough □ Game over for Trafalgar □ Gas in hot water again

Perils of being unassailable

□ RICHARD Brealey of the London Business School argues that the City's commanding comparative advantage as an international financial centre is so great that it only has to worry about "blowing it". That seems a fair assessment after three years work on the City Research Project. The City of London leads in many individual markets from foreign exchange and international equity trading to aviation insurance. Improving communications allow greater concentration rather than encouraging markets to disperse. London's markets are more liquid than those of continental rivals, its legal and regulatory system is friendly to finance, its cohorts of skilled professionals unparalleled, its market infrastructure unrivalled in the European time zone.

Unfortunately, after all that reassurance, the report has thudded on the desks of City folk and the customers just as the possibility of "blowing it" has become more real than for a decade. In one corner Barings has just been counted out. In the other, EMU is trying to flap its atrophied wings.

Neither need prove a fearsome hurdle compared to the mountains that City firms had to climb in the past to maintain markets against the odds of devaluations, dollar pools and entrenched

monopolies. But complacency would not help.

Christopher Sharples, chairman of the Securities and Futures Authority, is one of the few City figures so far to acknowledge the severe dent to London's reputation from the default of Barings. Vast numbers of the City's customers and potential customers abroad were shocked that the City should fail to prevent the failure of an institution with so good a name. International bankers might know that the Bank of England guaranteed no one and that there was no longer a magic circle. But users' faith in the word of the City of London was damaged. That will count particularly in the Far East and in emerging markets where merchant banks are so anxious to drum up business.

The good news is that the problem was resolved quickly and cleanly. Trading defaults were made good within days and deposits restored. It matters not that Barings's new owners are foreign, because foreign participation has been central to City innovation and domination. The

lesson is that the City should provide alternative forms of assurance. Regulation cannot be foolproof but a version of the US Securities and Exchange Commission with strong powers is likely to be part of the solution.

The threat of a single European currency is by contrast, purely hypothetical. Tough problems only arise if EMU goes ahead without Britain. Even then, insensitive regulation within the core countries would drive business to Britain rather than suck it away. But London cannot rely on that. Tomorrow's leaders should start planning for the worst now.

Infestation of Northern realism

□ SHAREHOLDERS speaking for more than half of Northern Electric are now claimed to side with Trafalgar House. But this does not fundamentally change the rules of the game.

The 35 per cent of the company clamouring over the weekend for an offer looks suspiciously similar to the 35 per cent of the shares



held by arbitrageurs, who forced the price sharply higher when Trafalgar first expressed an interest and were left stranded two or three pounds a share out of pocket when the first £11-a-share bid foundered on the rocks of Professor Littlechild's ill-timed intervention last week.

Though their numbers may have grown since then, this influx does not alter the fact that there is now no offer on the table. Northern is not immune from criticism — on Friday directors claimed they were unable to set a price on the company at present and could not accept 950p, which would seem to cut across their own ruling earlier to accept the first approach at £11.

But the board has played the

game according to the rules of the City, as interpreted by the Takeover Panel, and these say that the company should not be disturbed by another Trafs bid for a year. It would be extraordinary for the Panel to change them now. Shareholders' anger can take a number of forms, including sacking the entire Northern board, but it cannot force a reconsideration of Friday's decisions either from the board or from the Panel.

Trafalgar says it will stand behind that 950p figure if it is allowed to whatever the damage done by the regulator's subsequent review. With tax breaks worth the equivalent of £2 a share in prospect if Trafs succeeds, the latter has thus bet that Northern will be worth at least 750p a share, more than £1 more than the average of the rest of the companies last night.

Northern now has the corporate equivalent of dry rot or an infestation of cockroaches: to contend with, a legal action by at least one US arb probably to be joined in due course by many others in one of those dreadful class actions. But the fact re-

mains that, as the game is played, Trafs has lost, and Northern shareholders might as well take this to heart.

Sound of axes in the cherry orchard

□ THE latest complaint against British Gas is that its discount scheme for direct debit customers is "cherry-picking" more profitable customers before competition is introduced into the household gas market. And why not? The term has, after all, come into currency because British Gas accused low-overhead competitors of doing just that. In the process, it argued, competition would unravel cross-subsidies that have helped poorer people, smaller users, those in parts distant from the North Sea gas fields (and also cussed late payers).

"Cherry-picking" is, however, the essence of competitive behaviour. In other businesses, from soft drinks to banking, this is called marketing. Aim your products at the most profitable target markets, in segments of

markets, and you should gain higher returns and happy customers. It is, by the same token the antithesis of the public service ethic. Somehow, there are still people who imagine that British Gas should be pervaded by the public service ethic when the market is being thrown open to competition for the sake of customers. If it were it would be convenient for competition and for the Government since British Gas would simply lose profitable custom and be left with unprofitable business. It would just about be possible to protect the public service utility ethic in the Gas Bill. But there is little sign at second reading of much effort being made in that direction.

Competition will therefore bring losers as well as winners. The problem with British Gas is not that it is pursuing the wrong policies but that its management is so stretched that its efforts at reform are often hopelessly hampered. The rebate scheme provides the best example yet. In the search for cherries, as well as cutting the overhead cost of working capital, it makes sense to woo attractive customers. But cherry-pickers should not crush the fruit. By accidentally doubling charging large numbers of direct debit customers, British Gas has done its competitors a wonderful turn.



Board members David Parker, left, Mike Darrington, centre, and Malcolm Simpson served up rising profits

Fortunes rise to £12m at Greggs

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

SHARES in Greggs, the bakery group, jumped 50p to £11.18 yesterday after the company beat even the most optimistic expectations with a 33 per cent increase in profits.

Pre-tax profits rose to £12 million, from £9 million, in the year to December 31, on sales of £167.8 million, up from £110.4 million in the previous period. Earnings per share were 34 pence higher at 71p (53p).

The improvement was driven by increased efficiency and a better than expected first time contribution from Baker's Oven, the chain acquired from Associated British Foods last summer.

The Baker's Oven business, which had been loss-making under its previous owners, made an operating profit of £1.9 million before financing costs last year due to greater

buying power and improved product mix. Ian Gregg, chairman, said the acquisition had considerably enhanced earnings in the period.

The underlying business was also strong, reporting a 7 per cent increase in like-for-like sales in spite of increased price competition and the spread of Sunday trading among the leading supermarket chains.

In addition to the purchase of 424 Baker's Oven outlets, 20 new stores were opened during the period, bringing the total chain to 930 shops, compared with 499 last year. A further 15 to 20 shops are planned in the current year.

The final dividend of 10p (12p) brings the total payout to 23p (18p), well above City forecasts. Shareholders will be paid on May 26.

Rugby set fair as cement sales rise

BY MARTIN WALLER

THE Rugby Group, one of Britain's triumvirate of cement producers, has seen the first upturn in volumes since the recession in the building trade set in five years ago, with a 10 per cent rise in cement sales last year.

However, Peter Carr, managing director, says that sales had fallen 30 per cent since 1989 and that last year's improvement will be followed by only a marginal increase this year.

Rugby was reporting a 19 per cent rise in pre-tax profits last year, to £76.1 million, a figure held back by a £3.1 million loss on the sale of a French metal products business and a £3.9 million provision for a fine imposed by the European Commission.

The fine was imposed last year after the EC found Rugby guilty of anti-competitive prac-

tices. Rugby claims that it was unjustly treated and is appealing against the facts of the ruling, which found that the company had restricted cross-border shipments of cement and prevented the importation of Greek cement.

The figures contain a half-year contribution from the American building materials distribution business bought from Buntz, which chipped in about £7 million to operating profits of the US joinery activities at a time when these had suffered a significant downturn. The Buntz business, in confirmation of earlier Rugby promises that the deal would not be dilutive, also added some 0.2p in earnings per share, which rose from 7.3p to 8.1p.

A 2.10p final dividend makes a total up from a restated 3.385p to 3.60p.

National Express seeks West Midlands merger

BY SARAH BAGNALL

NATIONAL Express, the coach and airports operator, is fulfilling its diversification ambitions with the planned merger with West Midlands Travel, the bus operator.

West Midlands Travel was planning to float later this year and the City had pencilled in a valuation of about £160 million. The bus operator, which is owned by about 5,500 of its 7,000 staff and managers, was bought by employees for £70 million from The West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority in 1991.

The deal, which would almost double turnover at National Express, is expected to be partly funded by a rights issue. National Express shares were suspended at 317p

while talks between the two companies continue.

Ray McEnhill, chief executive, said National Express has been courting West Midlands for several months and negotiations were stepped up about six months ago.

The employee shareholders at West Midlands Travel, which operates 2,000 buses, own an average 12,000 shares each. Don Coulson, chairman, owns options on 1.7 million shares at an exercise price of 0.1p, while Peter Snape, Labour MP and a non-executive director, owns options on 40,000 shares at 55p.

West Midlands Travel made a profit of £16 million on sales of £150 million last year. In contrast, National Express

yesterday unveiled a pre-tax profit of £15.2 million on sales of £170 million in the year to December 31. At the suspended share price, National Express is valued at £126 million.

Profits benefited to the tune of £2 million from last year's train strike. During the ten weeks of the strike, the group's coaches carried 440,000 more passengers — many of whom have not reverted to being train passengers. Overall passenger volumes rose from 12.2 million to 13.5 million last year. The strike helped lift the group's UK coach operations profits from £4.8 million to £7.6 million on turnover of £109 million, up from £99.8 million last year.

East Midlands airport, ac-

quired in May 1993 for £27 million, lifted profits from £2.1 million to £6.4 million. Mr McEnhill said the group was looking to acquire more airports and its acquisition of Bournemouth International Airport is due to be completed early next month. The group lost out in bid to buy Birmingham City Airport but Mr McEnhill said there were plenty of other opportunities.

The group ended the year with gearing of 6 per cent, (22 per cent). The final dividend, due on May 11, is 6p, making a total of 8.7p (7.5p). Earnings per share — excluding profits due to the rail strike — rose from 16p to 22.2p.

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Persimmon sees land shortage

BY MARTIN BARROW

PERSIMMON, the house-building company, said shortage of land for housing is increasingly becoming a problem throughout the country, resulting in higher prices being paid by the construction industry.

Persimmon, which now owns or controls 17,100 plots, said that it was encouraged by a higher level of sales and an increase in the number of visitors to housing developments since the end of January.

The company sold a record 3,165 homes last year, compared with 2,771 in the previous year, at an average price of £65,159, and an average profit of £7,964.

Pre-tax profits increased to £25.2 million from £18.6 million, lifting earnings to 15.7p a share from 13.6p last year.

A final dividend of 6.5p a share makes a total of 9.5p for the year, an increase of 5.6 per cent.

Bond market collapse hits broking at MAI

BY MARTIN WALLER

THE collapse of world bond markets in February last year took its toll on MAI, the money broking to media combine, its latest results show, but the company says that the Barings collapse a year later has had little effect on it.

MAI's interim figures show that trading profits from wholesale broking tumbled from £28.2 million to £15.8

million in the six months to December 31. Lord Hollick, chief executive, said: "Turnover and volumes in capital markets have been down since last February. What's tended to happen is that the number of players in the market has dropped. It's really only the major banks who have been making the running."

By contrast, MAI's media

operations, which include Anglia TV since the £290 million takeover bid this time last year, jumped from £5.6 million to £28.7 million in the same period, boosting MAI's pre-tax profits by 22 per cent, to £38.6 million.

An interim dividend maintained at 2p is being paid from earnings per share up 11 per cent, to 10p. The payment, in line with company policy, is to be reviewed next year.

Lord Hollick said that the Anglia broadcasting arm, disregarding cash received and peripheral operations, had cost MAI between £180 million to £190 million, but had contributed £16 million in profit to the half-way figures.

He said that there had been a useful upturn in revenues from the money and security broking sectors since the start of the year, but his company retained a cautious view of the markets.



Lord Hollick has seen MAI media operations soar

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THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

A lead from the top

SOME chairmen support Glyndebourne. Some race horses. One City banker I know cared for an orphaned elephant in Ghana. But Lee Kun-Hee, chairman of South Korean conglomerate Samsung, the world's 14th largest company and employer of 190,000 staff, prefers dogs. Such is Lee's passion for Man's best friend that Samsung is giving significant financial support to Britain's annual Crufts Dog Show which opens in Birmingham on Thursday. Lee's personal commitment to dogs is intense. Not only does he own 300 dogs — from the smallest to the tallest, and, I'm told, Lee manages to stroke and pat them all — but Korea's Jindo breed was saved from extinction thanks to Samsung's interest. The Jindo, incidentally, is classified as one of Korea's National Treasures, ranking 53 on a national list of 200. Lee is not alone in being a dog-loving chairman. There was many a day at British Airways when Lord King of Warrimby, the former chairman, would appear at BA's headquarters with his border terrier, the Hon Joe, in tow. And when he had had enough of the office, he (The Hon Joe) would jump into Lord King's "out" basket to signal that it was time to go home.



Lee: caring owner

Team talent

AFTER yesterday's appointment of Jennifer Laing as chairman of Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising, I have been asked who said: "We have never been believers in the small agencies which are dependent on the style of one or two top men, however outstanding those individuals may be?" And the answer is: The chairman of Saatchi & Saatchi in the 1976 annual report.

Breakfast club

MARK PLATT, for the past five years director of its corporate sales division, will no longer be having breakfast at Tiffany's. He is leaving to set up on his own, Kiki Carrell, 31, and engaged to Hampshire cricket captain Mark Nicholas, is promoted to his place at table.

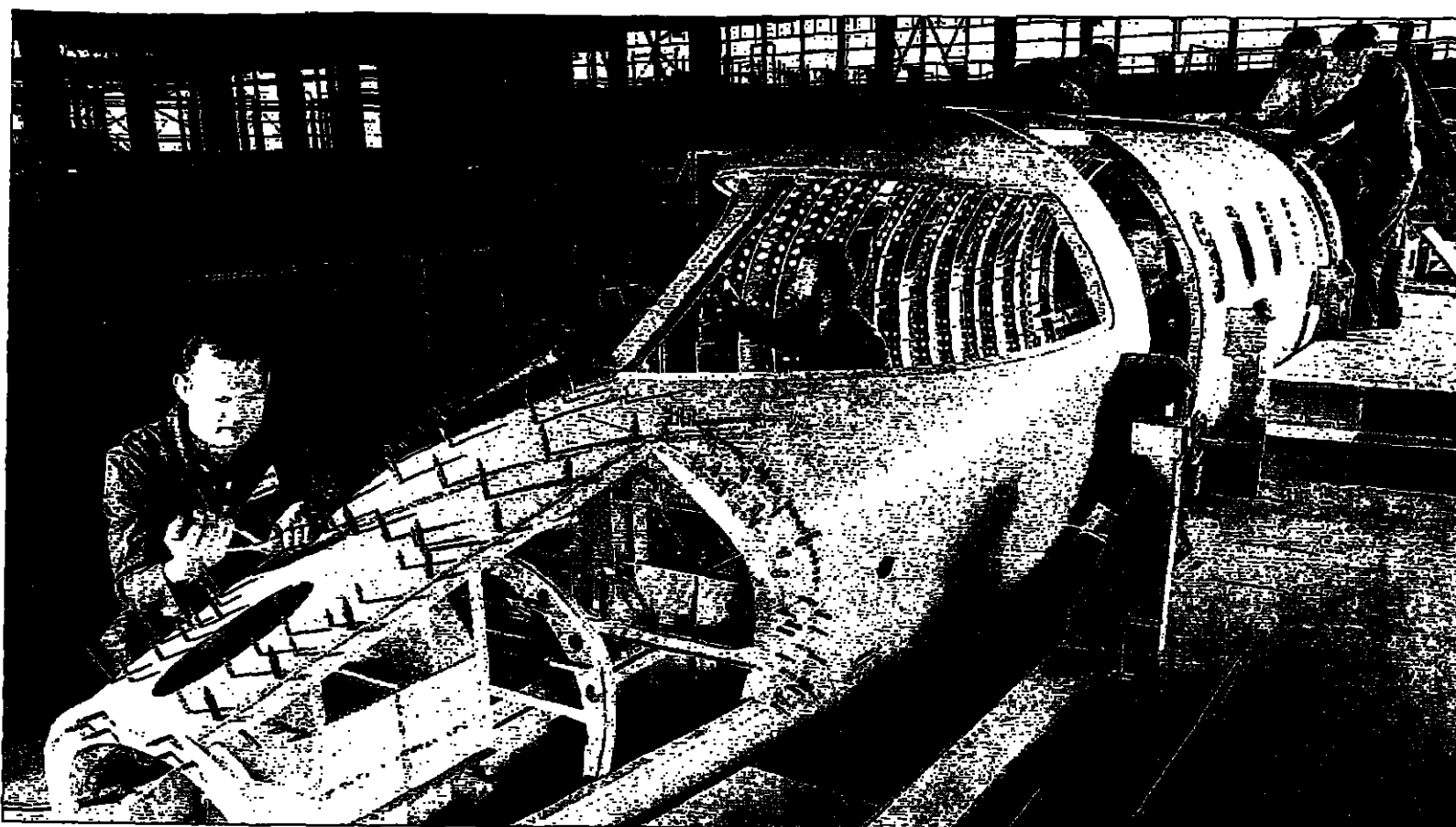
Sound results

THE self-congratulatory City Research Project by the London Business School, was supervised by a 13-strong governing board of the great and good that guided it along such politically correct paths as dismissing any damage from the collapse of Barings and backing the City's regulatory systems. Listed on the governing board are Peter Barings, chairman of Barings, and Michael Newmarch, former group chief executive of the Prudential Corporation. Clearly, all is well.

Augar's well

MUSICAL chairs in the City see Philip Augar, the affable senior managing director and head of NatWest Markets Securities division, leaving for Schroders, where he will be group managing director, securities.

COLIN CAMPBELL



Shorts's workers completing the fuselage of a Learjet 45 before it and the tailplane are joined with the wings made by de Havilland

Shorts takes off again as the planemaker's planemaker

Ross Tieman charts the renaissance of one of Belfast's leading employers

The sleek, shark-like fuselage of a business jet is nearing completion in the Short Brothers plant alongside Belfast Lough. Half a dozen technicians are elbow deep in a spaghetti of wiring and hydraulic pipes that snakes through the fuselage. At the rear, a tangle of legs reveals where two more blue-overalled figures are crouched within the baggage compartment, tinkering where the twin engines will one day be bolted to the aircraft body. Alongside, the tailplane lies ready to hoist into place.

Across the road, a vast assembly hall echoes to the rattle of maroon-clad riveters working upon row after row of aircraft wings. Pass through an archway, and there are more finers, here dressed in green, putting together the panels that make up the nacelles that cowl an aircraft's engines.

But somehow it does not add up. Those wings are too long, the nacelles too large for the pencil fuselage of the business jet. Short Brothers makes all the structures needed to build an aeroplane — but for different aircraft, assembled by other makers. This is no bad thing. Production of the last aircraft designed and built by Shorts, the stubby, box-like Shorts 360 turboprop, ended in 1990, two years after it was sold to Bombardier of Canada, ending 46 years of public ownership.

Ending production of the 360 was a demoralising decision for a company with a remarkable history. Shorts was the first British manufacturer to win a production contract for its aircraft. A faded sepia photograph bears witness: there sit Wilbur and Orville Wright, alongside Charles Rolls, with the three Short brothers, Eustace, Horace and Oswald, standing proudly alongside. The company they founded went on to design and build the Imperial flying boats, the Stirling bomber and the Belfast transport. But government ownership was its undoing: by 1983 Shorts had third-rate products, a dwindling order book, and buckets on the factory floor to catch the water leaking through the roof.

Few could fail to be impressed by the transformation, which has since been wrought. The irony is that the ideas came from the existing management team. Privatisation, the financial writers down that went with it, and some big government grants, enabled managers to invest £200 million in modernising their facilities. Membership of the Bombardier group provided a new market for aerostuctures, and a senior

partner to underwrite their efforts. Under state ownership, Short Brothers had been losing money for 20 years, while inadequate investment left the business utterly uncompetitive. In the first five years after privatisation, Roy McNulty, now saddled with the Canadian-style title of president and a £395,000 salary to match, pushed trading profits up in a steady curve from £2.1 million to £57.8 million in 1993. And that despite a worldwide slump in demand for new aircraft.

Further progress is expected to be reported for 1994 and Mr McNulty now aims to double annual sales to £800 million by 1998. By way of context, those are the kind of revenues now achieved by British Aerospace from the whole of its regional aircraft business, or from BAe's 20 per cent stake in Airbus Industrie. The foundation for these changes began, literally, at the factory floor. While roofers replaced the decrepit cladding on the main plant, the floor was dug out and a concrete slab capable of supporting modern machine tools was poured in its place. Playing to the company's strengths, McNulty and his team then divided the company into customer-focused businesses. The former Learfan works in Belfast was acquired to become a centre for production of carbon-reinforced plastic components.

New machines and innovative work-practices were introduced to speed the manufacture of wings for the Fokker 100 and Fokker 70 regional jets. Although there are 18,000 components in each wing, the number of man-hours required to complete them has been cut from 40,000 to 16,000. Similar improvements have been achieved in the manufacture of nacelles, where Shorts is now the leading specialist outside the United States, and in the manufacture of fuselage sections. In metal bonding — a dirty and declining technology — Shorts has capitalised upon its expertise by taking on out-sourced work for Boeing. Each activity was made a separate cost

centre, and the staff equipped with colour-coded overalls to help them identify with their business. A clear focus allied to improved efficiency and quality, has enabled Shorts to develop as a supplier of aerostuctures within the Bombardier group. Building from its origins as a snowmobile maker, Bombardier has built a portfolio of railway and aerospace businesses.

Bombardier's regional aircraft are assembled in Canada: the Dash turboprops by de Havilland and the 50-seat regional jet by Canadair. Corporate jet programmes are overseen by Learjet, in Wichita, Kansas. But increasingly, production involves collaboration between various de Havilland plants. The entire fuselage of the new Learjet 45, and large parts of the fuselage of the Canadair regional jet, are built in Belfast. Workshare arrangements for the forthcoming

Ownership by the Government was its undoing

Canadair long-range corporate jet, the Global Express, reflect the extent to which international collaboration and risk sharing are now the norm on any new aircraft. Shorts will build the forward fuselage, empennage (tail-plane), horizontal stabiliser and some composite fairings. Canadair will build the cockpit, Mitsubishi the wings and central fuselage and BMW-Rolls the engines. The plane will be assembled by de Havilland and the flight test programme managed by Learjet.

Such complex manufacturing and design arrangements would be impossible without the intensive use of computers. For Shorts is no mere subcontractor. The Learjet 45 is a triumph of simultaneous engineering. Between 20 and 40 Shorts engineers spent months in Wichita working with American and Canadian colleagues on the preliminary designs. But the detailed design of the fuselage was carried out in Belfast by engineers sharing a common computer system with colleagues in North America. Far from eroding Short's R&D capability, collaboration, and the use of simultaneous engineering to speed product

development, has enhanced it. Mr McNulty said: "Our capability, and the amount of engineering activity today are much higher than they were. We are engaged in a lot more new programmes." Playing a smaller role on a range of aircraft helps the company to maintain a smoother workflow. That cuts risk, and makes the business, and workforce, more stable.

Shorts has sought to maximise every opportunity. The missile business, producing the Starstreak and Starburst short-range anti-aircraft missiles in a five-year old, £40 million high-tech factory at Castlereagh, was too small to thrive without a partner. Half the business was sold to Thomson CSE, the French electronics group, bringing in more systems expertise and, hopefully, access to French defence markets.

Belfast City Airport has been developed to the point where it handles 1.2 million passengers a year. The appointment of Albert Harrison as director suggests it is prepared to spend money to bring the terminal up to scratch and develop it further. And through the acquisition of Airwork, Shorts has signalled its determination to build a stand-alone support business for aircraft operators. With spare cash and a parent more interested in growth than dividends, Shorts is seeking acquisitions.

Restructuring has cost jobs, but others have been created. Shorts now employs 10,000 people, of whom 6,600 work in Belfast. The missile business has halved its staff to 500 and consolidated on a single site, yet Short Brothers now employs only 200 fewer people in Belfast than it did at privatisation. The numbers in the aerospace have actually risen. Success at Shorts is both a beacon of hope for Belfast and a motor for the economy: it generates 10 per cent of the province's GDP.

But even now, the Government cannot wash its hands of the business. For Shorts is seeking to exploit its cost-competitiveness to regain a share of Britain's military aerospace market. It has teamed with British Aerospace to bid for work on the pan-European Future Large Aircraft military transport project which the Ministry of Defence plans to rejoin later this year. And it is working with Westland to offer a variant of the McDonnell Douglas Apache to meet the need for an attack helicopter. Success in these endeavours can only add to the diversity of business which has underpinned revival at Short Brothers.

Fraudbusters on Elm Street are booked

Jon Ashworth is unimpressed by a new study of the Serious Fraud Office

The Serious Fraud Office began life as a sleek greyhound and ended up looking like a whipped cur. The sequence has grown depressingly familiar — a spectacular dawn raid leads to a bungled show trial that ends with an indignant tycoon (plus wife and family) posing for the cameras. Some, such as Roger Levitt and Michael Ward, end up doing community service. A few go to prison — but painfully few. The taxpayer is left to mop up the costs.

Anyone expecting Brian Widlake's *Serious Fraud Office* (to be published by Little, Brown on Thursday at £18.99) to provide a scintillating insight into life at the SFO's London headquarters on Elm Street is in for disappointment. Widlake, a former presenter on BBC2's *The Money Programme*, provides some useful background on big cases, such as Barlow Clowes, but never achieves the fly-on-the-wall view that one would really like — particularly so close

to the lawyers look down their noses at the police, who, in turn, resent "suits" telling them what to do. The bean-counters sit somewhere in the middle. Widlake simply hints at a "lack of communication" between the three disciplines.

The Roskill committee report, in 1986, called for "a single, unified organisation responsible for all the functions of detection, investigation and prosecution of serious fraud". The Criminal Justice Act 1987 took in some Roskill ideas, such as letting a judge order a preparatory hearing to familiarise him with a complex case. The Act lets the SFO demand access to documents and question suspects at length.

The SFO went operational in April 1988. There are some words on the three SFO directors so far, John Wood, Barbara Mills, and the present incumbent, George Staple, whom Widlake portrays as a sort of dandy, writing: "He is attractive to women, smiles easily, but lacks steel." We are told that Mrs Mills

"wanted to become the first lady of fraud, feared by anyone contemplating putting their hands in the till".

Widlake runs through the old, well-documented, trials — Barlow Clowes, Polly Peck, Control Securities and Blue Arrow. Events have already overtaken it.

There is a long section on Michael Ward, former head of European Leisure, but nothing on his subsequent conviction on theft and fraud charges. Elizabeth Forsyth, former aide to Asil Nadir, is described as still hiding in northern Cyprus, even though she returned to the UK six months ago.

Two milestones lie ahead. A Government-ordered report on the SFO is expected to lead either to the agency being scrapped (which is unlikely) or being taken under the umbrella of the Crown Prosecution Service. The Maxwell case, due to open in April, will be watched with keen interest. The SFO can claim a conviction rate exceeding 70 per cent, but it is the high-profile flops that are remembered, not the run-of-the-mill cases.



Past and present: Barbara Mills and George Staple

Did they think Mars was bluffing?

DisCordiant note at Saatchi

A little light relief may be on the way, courtesy of Saatchi & Saatchi's EGM on Thursday. Saatchi & Saatchi, it may be recalled, has asked shareholders how they feel about a change of name to Cordiant. Also on the agenda is a share-option-based remuneration scheme to reward Charles Scott, chairman and chief executive, and a host of colleagues, for their efforts. Quite what shareholders will say about "Cordiant" is a moot point, but Thursday's gathering offers shareholders the opportunity to raise many matters. Such as: □ Saatchi & Saatchi's circular says that it gave "due consideration" to clients' views. Mars, British Airways and Mirror Group Newspapers all gave written warning that they might remove their business if Maurice Saatchi departed. Why were those warnings ignored? Did the directors think Mars and others were bluffing? Was this seen as a risk worth taking? Equally, why were warnings from senior executives ignored? □ According to the shareholders, a poll revealed that shareholders supported the proposal by David Herro, a Chicago fund manager, to remove Mr

Saatchi. Were the shareholders 'polled' informed of the warnings from clients and senior executives? Were they told that Mr Saatchi had agreed to drop his controversial £5 million option scheme? □ Saatchi & Saatchi's directors informed Mr Herro last May that it was in the best interests of the company that Mr Saatchi should remain chairman. Likewise, on December 13, Mr Scott informed the non-executive directors that it was "not in the best interests of shareholders" for Mr Saatchi to be removed. Three days later, at the marathon board meeting, he voted to remove Mr Saatchi. If this was wrong on December 13, why was it right on December 16? What, other than the weather, changed between May and December? □ On the morning of December 16, Sir Paul Girolami, a non-executive director who was otherwise engaged in Rome, informed the board that, in his opinion, they

"should not obey or react" to Mr Herro's demands and that to do so would be "unsound on the basis of any principles of corporate governance". Hours later, he went along with Mr Herro's proposals. Why? □ Has Mr Saatchi's removal indirectly jeopardized the company's refinancing plan with its banks? Is the company in danger of breaching any of its bank covenants? At what discount is the company's debt now being valued? □ Saatchi & Saatchi's message to the City was that the loss of Mr Saatchi and other senior executives would have only a minimal impact, involving a handful of people and just 5 per cent of revenues. In the High Court, the impression given was that the exodus was far more serious. How does this square? □ Where was the wisdom of a legal action against Mr Saatchi that was perceived as "not seriously arguable" and described, by the judge, as an

attempt to stifle competition by "backdoor" means?

□ Is it correct that Peter Davies, who declined the offer of chairman, was opposed to Saatchi's ongoing litigation?

□ Sir Peter Walters, chairman of the compensation committee, recommended Mr Saatchi's controversial share option scheme and has also recommended a potential £3 million "thank you" for Mr Scott. Does Sir Peter feel inclined to pass the reins over to less lavish hands?

□ Did the directors receive a £375 million tentative takeover offer for Bates Worldwide, via Morgan Stanley, last December? What value would the board now put on Bates after the loss of Mars? How will the £30 million lost revenues from Mars be made good. How many staff will go? What will the redundancies cost?

□ Last, but not least, why did the board not put Mr Herro's proposals to the test at an extraordinary general meeting? Shareholders, who have watched the share price plunge 40 per cent, might reasonably wonder why a name change to Cordiant ranks above actions that have led to the loss of \$500 million worth of billings.



MELVYN MARCKUS

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Application has been made to the London Stock Exchange for the whole of the ordinary share capital of BWD Securities PLC (as used and currently traded on the United Securities Market) to be admitted to the Official List. It is expected that admission will become effective and dealings in the ordinary shares of 10p each of the Company will commence on 20th March, 1995.

BWD Securities PLC

(Incorporated in England with Registered Number 2146011)

Introduction to the Official List

by
James Capel & Co. Limited
of

the whole of the issued ordinary share capital of BWD Securities PLC

Authorised		Share Capital		Issued and fully paid	
Amount	Number			Amount	Number
£2,500,000	25,000,000	ordinary shares of 10p each		£1,929,418	19,294,177

The principal activity of the BWD Securities PLC Group is asset management.

Copies of the Prospectus Listing Document may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturday excepted) from the Company Announcements Office, the London Stock Exchange, Capel Court Entrance, off Bartholomew Lane, London EC2N 1HP (for collection only) from the date of this notice up to and including 15th March, 1995 and from the date of this notice up to and including 27th March, 1995 from:

James Capel & Co. Limited
Thames Exchange
10 Queen Street Place
London EC4R 1BL

BWD Securities PLC
Woodsome House
Woodsome Park
Fenny Bridge, Huddersfield
West Yorkshire HD8 0JG

14th March 1995

1994/95		Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E	1994/95		Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
High	Low					High	Low				
154	108	Brown Dolphin	124		5.0	9.5	115	75	EPN Gp	9	
757	620	Coastalco	630	+	3.3	17.2	284	104	Essex Forest	105	5.5 11.7

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184	AG Holdings	139	51	113	162	99	BEI Int	165	+1	41	140	16
185	AGI	138	175	188	165	175	BEI	165	+1	41	140	16
316	Agri-Wing Int	235	+	3	139	130	BEI	165	+1	41	140	16
186	Adco	138	138	138	138	138	BEI	165	+1	41	140	16
187	Adco	138	138	138	138	138	BEI	165	+1	41	140	16
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400	Adco	138	138	138	138	138	BEI	165	+1	41	140	16

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156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000
156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857																																																																																																																																															

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87	Aluminum (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Aluminum (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
88	Asphalt (cu yd)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Asphalt (cu yd)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
89	Bit. Fuel (cu yd)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Bit. Fuel (cu yd)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
90	Crude Oil (bbl)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Crude Oil (bbl)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
91	Electricity (kwh)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Electricity (kwh)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
92	Gasoline (gals)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Gasoline (gals)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
93	Heating Oil (gals)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Heating Oil (gals)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
94	Propane (gals)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Propane (gals)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
95	Water (cu ft)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Water (cu ft)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
96	Waste (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Waste (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
97	Yield (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Yield (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
98	Other (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Other (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
99	Total (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Total (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
100	Other (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Other (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
101	Total (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Total (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
102	Other (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Other (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
103	Total (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Total (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
104	Other (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Other (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
105	Total (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Total (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
106	Other (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Other (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
107	Total (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Total (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
108	Other (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Other (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
109	Total (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Total (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
110	Other (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Other (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
111	Total (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Total (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
112	Other (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Other (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
113	Total (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Total (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
114	Other (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Other (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
115	Total (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Total (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
116	Other (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Other (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
117	Total (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Total (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
118	Other (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Other (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
119	Total (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Total (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39
120	Other (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39	Other (lb)	139	3	0.9	16.2	171	39

RETAILERS, GENERAL														
80	Alcohol	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Alcohol	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
81	Admiral	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Admiral	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
82	Agave Inc.	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Agave Inc.	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
83	Amway (danci)	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Amway (danci)	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
84	Arts	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Arts	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
85	Auto Feed	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Auto Feed	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
86	Bellini (L)	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Bellini (L)	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
87	Books	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Books	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
88	Donuts	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Donuts	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
89	Electric	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Electric	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
90	Food	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Food	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
91	Gasoline	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Gasoline	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
92	Hardware	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Hardware	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
93	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
94	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
95	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
96	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
97	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
98	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
99	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
100	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
101	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
102	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
103	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
104	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
105	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
106	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
107	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
108	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
109	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
110	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
111	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
112	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
113	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
114	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
115	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
116	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
117	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
118	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
119	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29
120	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29	Home & Acdon	22	19	40	11.7	127	29

WATER														
80	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29
81	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29
82	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29
83	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29
84	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29
85	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29
86	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29
87	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29
88	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29
89	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29
90	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29
91	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29
92	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29
93	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29
94	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29
95	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29
96	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29
97	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29
98	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29
99	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29
100	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29
101	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29
102	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29
103	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29
104	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29
105	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29
106	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29
107	Adams	436	96	64	10.3	117	29							

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	Price	ΔP	log ΔP	Gr ΔP
1994-2000	104%	+ 7%	0.86	0.66
1994-2001	104%	+ 7%	0.86	0.78
1994-2002	133%	+ 10%	1.03	0.90
1994-2003	94%	- 7%	0.44	0.60
1994-2004	117%	+ 7%	0.82	0.82
1994-2005	96%	- 7%	0.60	0.80
1994-2006	127%	+ 10%	1.00	0.80
1994-2007	94%	- 7%	0.44	0.64
1994-2008	94%	- 7%	0.44	0.64
1994-2009	80%	- 7%	0.77	0.52
1994-2010	103%	+ 7%	0.81	0.61
1994-2011	94%	- 7%	0.44	0.55
1994-2012	104%	+ 7%	0.84	0.65
1994-2013	73%	- 7%	0.42	0.45
1994-2014	91%	- 7%	0.42	0.58
1994-2015	92%	- 7%	0.42	0.60
1994-2016	92%	- 7%	0.42	0.60
1994-2017	91%	- 7%	0.42	0.58
1994-2018	91%	- 7%	0.42	0.58
1994-2019	91%	- 7%	0.42	0.58
1994-2020	91%	- 7%	0.42	0.58
1994-2021	91%	- 7%	0.42	0.58
1994-2022	91%	- 7%	0.42	0.58
1994-2023	91%	- 7%	0.42	0.58
1994-2024	91%	- 7%	0.42	0.58
1994-2025	91%	- 7%	0.42	0.58
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LAW

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Robert Wright, QC, says it is not too late to organise common training for lawyers



Schoolchildren try some advocacy. If the Bar has its way, would-be lawyers will have to make early decisions about whether to train as barristers or solicitors

A bar to true choice

The Bar Council will this week debate proposals aimed at opening up entry to the profession. Instead of London's Inns of Court School of Law having a monopoly of training, universities around the country would be licensed to run the one-year vocational training course for qualification as a barrister.

Lord Steyn, who chairs the committee that advises the Lord Chancellor, Lord MacKay of Clashfern, on legal education, last year recommended that there should be common primary vocational training for aspiring barristers and solicitors, a proposal supported in a *Times* leading article.

It is unfortunate that the Bar has rejected that advice and is embarking on a policy of validating courses for the Bar alone. The Bar acknowledges that this will result in hundreds more students passing the course than those now emerging from the Inns of Court School of Law. They will need to obtain pupillage, particularly under proposed changes by which trainees will be "called" to the Bar only after completing six months' pupillage and undertaking to complete a further six months.

On the present numbers, selection for pupillage places already places a virtually intolerable burden on chambers. Many students do not obtain pupillage. There is a backlog from past years, which increases the problems for the current year. The pressures will increase as institutions press the case for their students, who will have no other professional outlet. Judging from recent experience at the Inns School of Law,

the problem is likely to lead to litigation.

Why persist in the policy of validation for the Bar alone? The reason is that the Bar's existence as an independent profession is said to depend on having exclusive courses for the Bar at all stages, unless a common course is devised that meets the entire needs of the Bar. But the only course available as basic common vocational training is the Law Society's legal practice course (LPC), which the Bar rejects.

This reason has a false foundation. Experience in common-law jurisdictions in the Antipodes shows that a strong independent Bar can exist where qualification is first required. The purpose of a common course is to provide a foundation qualifying those who pass either to undergo further training for the Bar, or to obtain a training agreement to qualify as a solicitor. It would cease to be common if there were options for the Bar and for solicitors.

The Law Society course would be a sound foundation for common training. It now has a large practical element, as much as 50 per cent in some cases. All have a large element of advocacy. Once it is recognised that a common course cannot meet the entire needs of

the Bar, there is no reason to reject it.

The better course is to stop trying to put a quart into a pint pot. The Bar should accept the LPC as an initial course, then apply itself to considering the real problems. What further intensive course of training is required for barristers to retain full rights of audience after call and how can it be provided? How are pupils to be selected?

The advantages of common training are so manifest that it is doubtful whether the policy of separate training, for the reason given by the Bar, will be acceptable either to the public or to the Lord Chancellor's advisory committee.

First, students avoid the need for segregation into two camps at an unnecessarily early stage. Experience on the common course in dealing with the practice of the law will make it easier to reach an informed decision. The task of tutors in advising students will be better discharged. During the common course year, the Inns and the circuits can provide mentoring and other events to help the Bar and students to assess aptitude as advocates. A pool of recommended candidates might be prepared to help chambers to select pupils.

This process might also be used to assess those to be admitted to the course of further training, and to provide some security in the prospect of obtaining a pupillage and a fair opportunity of a tenancy.

The resources of the Inns and chambers can be used to help to finance the further training, with the Inns providing a back-up through their programmes of sponsorships, moots, seminars and other events. Validation would result in the loss of these programmes, which give a greater advantage to students at training in London, particularly at the Inns of Court School of Law, and improve prospects of pupillage.

A further intensive course at the Inns school would enable the Inns to continue their programmes to instil the collegiate atmosphere of the Bar, supplemented by circuits and chambers. This builds confidence between the Bench, the Bar and practitioners. It helps to maintain a strong and independent Bar whose services are available to all.

It is desirable that as far as possible, without derogating from the rights of solicitors to obtain rights of audience, all advocates with full rights of audience should be subject to the same code of conduct and to control by one body. This can best be achieved by encouraging all who aspire to be full-time advocates or specialist advisers to join the Bar. This process will be helped if all start from a common course, facilitating transfer from one branch of the profession to the other.

There is still time before 1997 to adopt a policy of common training and face the problems of further training and selection of pupillage. Fair

selection can be strict for a small profession, when those who are not selected have another professional outlet. The alternative — going down the route of separate validation — will probably, if not inevitably, lead to intractable problems, making them unacceptable to the public, and to acrimony. In any case, such courses may be of short duration. The Lord Chancellor's advisory committee might conclude that common training is the best policy. The reputation and standing of the Bar may be damaged; and both the Bar and society would be the losers.

● The author for ten years chaired Lincoln's Inns committees on scholarships and liaison with universities.



'Separate training is unlikely to win wide acceptance'
ROBERT WRIGHT, QC

The mover moves on

MICHAEL Malone-Lee, for two years head of policy at the Lord Chancellor's Department, is leaving Whitehall after 28 years to become Vice-Chancellor at Anglia Polytechnic University from September 1.

He has been the prime mover of some of the radical policies of recent months, such as the idea of legal aid "budget holders".

"He forced us to look at the social context of what we do — to consider the social policy," a colleague says. "We used just to talk to lawyers but now we have far wider contacts — with academics, for instance." Mr Malone-Lee says that "the offer was too exciting and interesting to refuse".

INNS AND OUTS



Richard Ferguson, QC, danger of Rumpole image

Stepping out
NATIONAL Law Week from May 22 celebrates the grant of the Law Society's royal charter. Events include a "my

favourite solicitor" competition, a 3.5-mile run for 1,500 lawyers to raise funds for Imperial Cancer Research and a quiz to find Britain's best legal brains.

Back to basics

IS THERE a backlash against the reformist vogue at the Bar? Richard Ferguson, QC, chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, addressing colleagues he calls "M'Luddites" in the latest association newsletter, regrets the lifting of the rule which prevented barristers speaking to witnesses. Criminal barristers who opposed the move were accused of "wilfully standing in the way of progress

and the bad image of the Bar. "You could almost feel the unwelcome thought that if the Bar did not make the leap of speaking to witnesses, the pristine civil practitioners might become contaminated by the image of Rumpole."

Swiftest silk

MICHAEL Beloff, QC, the leading public-law silk, has another claim to fame, as featured in the latest edition of *Runner's World*. "Athletics has been my passion since I was a child," he says. He's been to the Olympic Games three times and has more than 100 volumes on athletics at his Oxford home. Mr Beloff, 52, who runs in the morning or at weekends, has competed in five marathons, achieving a best time of 3hr 52min.

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What's so special about boxing?

The brain injuries suffered by the boxer Gerald McClellan as a result of his world title bout with Nigel Benn have refocused attention on the anomalous legal position of their sport. Each boxer intends to wound or otherwise cause serious bodily harm to his opponent. Yet competitors are not prosecuted under the Offences against the Person Act 1861.

Until the middle of the 19th century, the law frowned on boxing, although for reasons that did not clearly distinguish between concern about personal injury and a desire to avoid public disorder. East's *Pleas of the Crown* (1803) explained that "manly sports and exercises" were lawful, even if death should regrettably ensue, but the law prohibited "prize-fighting, public boxing matches, and the like, which are exhibited for the sake of lucre, and are calculated to draw together a number of idle, disorderly people."

Legal and social concern about the brutality of prize-fighting led to the adoption of the Queensberry Rules in 1867, which required the use of boxing gloves, introduced a limited number of three-minute rounds and prohibited wrestling with an opponent.

Proper regulation of the sport encouraged legal toleration of such contests, although as late as 1901 (as Edward Grayson's encyclopaedic *Sport and the Law* records) an unsuccessful prosecution was brought at the Old Bailey against one boxer for manslaughter of his opponent during a contest at the National Sporting Club in London.

By 1975, as Mr Justice McInerney explained for the Supreme Court of Victoria, Australia, the legality of boxing was an accomplished legal fact. In 1981, Lord Lane, then the Lord Chief Justice, stated on behalf of the Court of Appeal that it was a criminal assault for a man to punch another during a fight in the street, even though each of them consented to the fight as a means of settling a dispute. However, he added, "nothing which we have said is intended to cast doubt upon the accepted legality of properly conducted games and sports".

The legality of boxing was discussed by some members of the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords in 1993 when the majority of the law lords decided that sado-masochists were guilty of offences of wounding, and causing actual bodily harm, even though the injuries were the result of consensual activities. In his dissenting speech, Lord Mustill noted that the law contained no explanation of why professional boxing appeared to be immune from prosecution.

He pointed out that "for money, not recreation or personal improvement", each

boxer attempts to hurt his opponent more than he is hurt himself, "and aims to end the contest prematurely by inflicting a brain injury serious enough to make the opponent unconscious", or tries to defeat the other boxer by "impairing his central nervous system through a blow to the midriff, or cutting his skin" to a degree that would ordinarily be well within the scope of the criminal law.

Lord Mustill concluded that it was impossible "to arrive at an intellectually satisfying account of the apparent immunity of professional boxing from the criminal process". This was, Lord Mustill suggested, a "special situation which for the time being stands outside the ordinary law of violence because society chooses to tolerate it".

Last year, the Law Commission published a consultation paper, *Consent and Offences against the Person*. The commission explained that boxing is unlike other sports in that the intentional infliction of serious injury is "the essence of the sport". It suggested that "the immunity of boxing from the reach of the criminal law is now so firmly embedded in the law that only special legislation can change the position". In the view of the commission, it was for Parliament to consider whether boxing should continue to be lawful.

But the common law still has a few fights left in it. There is no statute which obliges judges to accept that though punching another person with an intention to cause grievous bodily harm is a criminal offence, if committed in the street, even when both combatants take off their jackets and agree to a fight, such an act is lawful if done in a stadium in front of thousands of spectators and with a worldwide television audience of millions. It is open to the courts to change, or develop, judicial policy in new social and medical conditions.

Just as recognition of the legality of boxing was a response to the 1867 regulation of the sport to remove barbarity, so the courts could decide that adequate controls to protect the interest of competitors, and to maintain the legality of the sport, now require fewer rounds, more rigorous medical checks between rounds, and the wearing of headguards.

The British Boxing Board of Control would be well advised to box clever by amending its regulations to meet medical and social concerns about the more dangerous aspects of the sport. The alternative might be a contest in the courts that could well go the distance.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford



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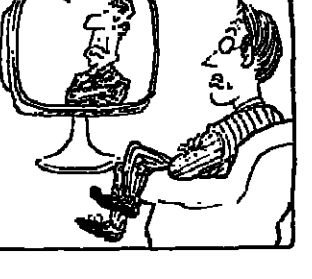
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sought for small and fairly specialised (civil) set of Chambers to share the usual responsibilities with one other. Experience preferred. Salary plus small percentage producing a total remuneration package in the region of £20,000 p.a.

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- The Experience** At least 6-8 years' post qualification combining acquisitions, finance (preferably equipment leasing) and transactional work gained at a top rated commercial law firm and possibly in-house.
- The Individual** A UK or foreign qualified lawyer of partner quality who can demonstrate a genuine ability to provide user-friendly, business orientated, timely and high quality legal advice.
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For further information in complete confidence please contact Sally Morreux or Jonathan Macrae on 0171-377 0510 (evenings/weekends 0171-731 4858) or alternatively, write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential Fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail sally@zmb.co.uk

ZMB

Mourant du Feu & Jeune ARE YOU A commercial OFFSHORE TRUST LAWYER?

Mourant du Feu & Jeune is widely recognised as a market leader in the provision of offshore commercial advice and legal services to an extensive international client base.

Inherent to its success in helping the continuing development of Jersey as a pre-eminent offshore jurisdiction is the influential role of its wholly owned trust company, Mourant & Co.

As part of planned growth, Mourant & Co. is now seeking a commercially proactive lawyer with at least 5 years' post-qualification experience of advising on and designing offshore trust structures and related tax planning.

The successful candidate, possibly qualified in England, Hong Kong, the USA or any other western European jurisdiction, will be expected to combine an unusual mix of legal and marketing expertise by developing new products and services in response to changing legal requirements. He or she is likely to be either currently working in an offshore jurisdiction, a major law firm or financial institution.

This position offers Associate Director status, a competitive salary which benefits from an offshore tax environment and the opportunity to tap into a dynamic international network of high net worth private clients, national and multi-national corporations, financial institutions and their respective professional advisers.

For further information in complete confidence please contact Nicola Swann, Personnel Manager at Mourant du Feu & Jeune, on 01534 609000. Alternatively contact our Consultant, Jonathan Brenner, on 0171-377 0510 (0181-940 6848 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Zarak Macrae Brenner, 37 Sun Street, London, EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. Internet e-mail jonathan@zmb.co.uk

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CHARTERED SECRETARY

Leading Financial Services Group

A superb opportunity for an ambitious Chartered Secretary to join the Company Secretary's Office of this leading financial services group based in the heart of the City.

A graduate (preferably in law), you will have a minimum of 3 years' experience and will be currently working in a FTSE 100 company. A background in financial services would be ideal, but is not a prerequisite.

The position offers genuine prospects for promotion to Assistant Company Secretary within this high profile, customer-focused Office.

Working as part of a progressive and outward looking team you will be expected to handle a range of commercial company secretarial matters and to be interested in shareholder communications and corporate governance issues. Additional responsibilities will include management of the corporate database, the company secretaryship of certain subsidiary undertakings and liaison with both the London and overseas Stock Exchanges.

An attractive salary is offered for this challenging role, together with a full range of banking benefits.

For further details please ring Fiona Bazall or Jane Wallace or send them a copy of your C.V.

Chambers

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS: PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT

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Corporate Commercial Litigation Banking Property

Look No Further!



Banking - to £40,000
Solicitors with 1-4PQE gained in high quality practices are sought by numerous firms in the City and countrywide. Capital markets experience will be an asset.

Corporate/Commercial c£30,000 + bonus
Leading City based organisation requires junior Solicitor with 1-2PQE to join established Legal Department handling corporate work. Yellow Book experience an advantage.

Intellectual Property - City to £40,000
Medium sized City firm has new role for a Solicitor with up to 4PQE to handle a mixed caseload of intellectual property work. Those with a science background of interest.

Corporate/Banking - Far/Middle East
Two prestige firms seek City trained candidates with 4-7PQE gained in corporate, banking, project finance or capital markets work. No language skills required.

Reinsurance - City to £32,000
Reputable medium sized City practice seeks an insurance litigation specialist with between 1-2PQE to handle a Lloyd's Market based caseload.

Compliance - to £50,000
Leading international bank seeks two Lawyers to handle regulatory work on a global basis. Excellent opportunity for travel.

Oil & Gas - London to £40,000 + bonus
Junior Lawyer with 1-4PQE sought to join Company/Commercial Department to handle upstream work. Strong academic record and City training preferred.

Banking - City £40,000
Young Solicitor/Barrister required by leading house to work as sole Legal Adviser handling banking, finance and some SWAPS work.

Pensions - City/Cambs to £45,000
Superb new opportunities have arisen for pensions experts within a number of major practices. NQs who have completed a pensions seat will be considered but those with 2-4PQE are most in demand.

Telecoms - 3-5PQE City
Energetic young Lawyer required to join expanding high profile practice. Candidates must have some telecoms experience and strong marketing skills.

Contact: Simon Lipson, Marian Lloyd-Jones, Marianne Ferguson or Lyane McCarroll
LIPSON LLOYD-JONES - Legal Recruitment
127 Cheapside, London EC2V 6BT Tel: 0171 600 1690 Fax: 0171 600 1972

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Pensions Shipping Insurance Compliance

GLOBAL FMCG COMPANY IN-HOUSE COUNSEL

Recognised on a global basis, our client is part of one of the UK's largest and pre-eminent business enterprises both in turnover and profit. In the FMCG sector, the company has manufacturing and processing operations in more than 45 countries employing 36,000 people. In addition, it has a substantial worldwide export business and overall its brands are available in 160 markets.

In 1994, the company acquired a majority shareholding in three privatised companies in the former Soviet Union, two in Russia and one in Uzbekistan and has made capital investment commitments totalling more than £200 million, in the main to modernise manufacturing facilities and to improve working conditions.

This vigorous expansion presents exceptional opportunities for two high-calibre lawyers:

MOSCOW

Based in Moscow, the Russian counsel will manage the legal affairs arising out of the company's business in Russia.

Responsibilities will be broad ranging and will include all company/commercial matters, ensuring the implementation of capital investment programmes, liaising with government and regulatory authorities and managing internal/external legal advisers. Fluency in Russian and English is essential.

TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN

Based in Tashkent, the Uzbek legal specialist will manage the legal affairs arising out of the company's business in Uzbekistan and will have comparable responsibilities to the Moscow based lawyer. Fluency in Russian and English is essential and fluency in Uzbek is desirable.

This assignment is being handled exclusively by Deborah Kirkman on behalf of Robert Walters Associates.

For further information in complete confidence please contact her on 0171 379 3333 (confidential fax 0171 915 8714), or write to her at 25 Bedford Street, London, WC2E 9HP.

ROBERT WALTERS ASSOCIATES

PARALELS NEEDED Ashurst Morris Crisp is looking to employ up to five paralegals nationwide for a fixed term contract of 6 months (renewable) commencing in April and should ideally be based in the London office and at the client's premises. Applicants should be legally qualified and have litigation experience. Remuneration will be competitive. Please send curriculum vitae to: Solicitors, Ashurst Morris Crisp, Broadwalk House, 25 Abchurch Lane, London EC4A 3DF. Tel: 0171 584 1311.

HURRY YOUR LAWYERS Self motivated lawyers or Solicitors for litigation and Property. Excellent prospects with new firm with well established and varied client base. Candidates on performance, client service, training and development. Please contact: Mr. J. J. Jones, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Tel: 0171 377 0510.

BARRISTERS' CLERK required for small set. Please apply to: 25 Bedford Street, London, WC2E 9HP. Tel: 0171 379 3333.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY South - Established firm seeks experienced solicitor for a 5 year + F&C. Tel: 0171 377 0510.

CONVEYANCING to ERM. Licensed conveyancing practice in London country offices. Tel: 0171 377 0510.

SITUATIONS WANTED Newly qualified solicitor seeking immediate position. Extensive P.L. property and commercial experience. Tel: 0171 377 0510.

WESTMINSTER MEDICAL We are independent medical consultants, who provide a comprehensive medical examination and reporting service with prompt and courteous attention. We write detailed reports in terms understood by all parties and offer impartial advice.

LEGAL EXECUTIVE Personal Injury Road Traffic Accidents Due to expansion specialist Solicitors new Kingston upon Thames now require an experienced and competent Executive to deal with volume Uninsured Loss Recovery Claims arising from Road Traffic Accidents. We are looking for an ambitious, fast thinking person who has good County Court experience, strong negotiating skills and who is able to take over an existing high volume personal (500 files approx) consisting of a large proportion of Personal Injury claims.

We will offer a competitive salary for the right experience/abilities. Ideally someone who specialises in this area of work, has computer skills and can handle claims from instruction to completion. Send CV to: Mrs J. Tiley, Coleman & Tiley Solicitors, 177 Hook Road, SURBITON TW9 6AR

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HEAD OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Simmons & Simmons is a major international law firm based in the City, providing a comprehensive range of legal services to businesses and individuals worldwide. We strive to maintain the highest possible standard of service and recognise the fundamental importance of doing so by means of a systematic and objective training and education programme for all our people. Accordingly, we now seek to appoint a Head of Education and Training reporting to our Personnel Director.

The breadth of the position demands confidence and credibility as it will involve liaising and advising at partner level as well as training lawyers and support staff at all levels.

Wide ranging responsibilities will include:-

- * Structuring the training of legal, business and marketing knowledge and the skills required for the delivery of an effective legal service to clients
- * Assisting in the development and maintenance of the appropriate management skills required within the firm

As the successful candidate you will have:-

- * A legal or other professional background or IPD qualification
- * Several years' experience in the development and delivery of training of people in a professional firm or blue chip company
- * A keen sense of commercial acumen and proven organisational ability
- * Enthusiasm, energy and initiative

This is an opportunity to play the leading role in the development and training of our lawyers and to be part of an organisation committed to using learning creatively. Reflecting our commitment, a substantial remuneration package is envisaged.



Please reply, enclosing full details in complete confidence, to Stephen Rodney or Rebecca Errington at Quarry Dougal Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. This assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis by Quarry Dougal Recruitment. All direct applications will be forwarded to QD.

SIMMONS & SIMMONS

London Paris Brussels Lisbon Milan Abu Dhabi Hong Kong New York

CORPORATE PARTNERS IN THEIR 30s

GARRETT & Co
LONDON

On any view, this opportunity to join one of the most exciting firms in England is radically different.

Garrett & Co. is associated with the Arthur Andersen Worldwide Organisation through its membership of the AA international network of law firms, employing lawyers in over 20 countries worldwide. Founded 18 months ago, the English firm has grown rapidly and already has over 40 UK based lawyers. Successful, highly motivated and committed to maintaining the highest professional standards, the firm has already acquired an excellent reputation and market position, with offices in London, Leeds and Reading.

In London, Garrett & Co. now seeks to enhance further its existing corporate and commercial expertise to meet the demands of its national and international clients and, poised for expansion, is looking for an ambitious and successful partner to strengthen the team by adding additional energy and ideas to help implement plans for growth.

You will already be a partner in an established firm, have an excellent track record in the company field, the ability to command the respect of colleagues and clients and proven marketing ability. You will be an entrepreneurial individual looking to integrate into a firm with both the commitment and resources to enable you to develop fully your potential and make a real contribution to its growth and future success.

This is a key appointment for Garrett & Co. and the package accordingly highly competitive.

To gain an insight into how you can play a pivotal role in the realisation of our strategy in London and beyond, you can speak on a fully confidential basis to Deborah Dalgleish or Gareth Quarry (both qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0181-520 6559 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougal Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. No disclosure will be made without your express knowledge and consent. Initial discussions can be held on a no-names basis. This assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis by Quarry Dougal Recruitment.



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CFP LONDON

CITY
Expanding department of this progressive medium sized City firm requires a 2-3 year qualified assistant to join its property finance team. Workload will include secured lending, property finance, leasing and insurance. Relevant property finance experience is preferable but outstanding commercial property lawyers will be considered. Ref: 9466.

CITY
Developing employment department of this medium sized City practice is seeking a 2-4 year qualified lawyer to undertake a mix of contentious and non-contentious matters. Ideal candidates will already have gained useful contacts in the industry and be willing and able to capitalise on these. Ref: 9152.

CITY
Top 10 City firm with respected commercial reputation requires a 2-4 year qualified solicitor to join busy department. Candidates will be afforded a high level of responsibility and will have gained their experience with a similarly high calibre practice. Excellent opportunity. Ref: 9182.

CITY
Expanding City practice with a reputation for quality commercial work is interested in recruiting a senior non-contentious banking lawyer. Candidates will ideally have between 4 to 5 years' relevant experience gained with a recognised banking firm. Excellent prospects. Ref: 9351.

CITY
Pre-eminent litigation practice is expanding its reinsurance department and needs a 2-3 year qualified lawyer to join its team. Previous experience and understanding of the industry is essential along with ambition, dedication and an ability to communicate well. Ref: 9153.

Above is but a small representative sample of some of the vacancies we have registered with us from law firms throughout London. For more information on our services telephone us or alternatively write to us at 4 Bloomsbury Place, London WC1A 2QA; 137 Newhall Street, Birmingham B3 3SF; 22 Deansgate, Manchester M3 1PB; 31-33 Corn Street, Bristol BS1 1BT; or 32 Sovereign Street, Leeds LS1 4BJ. All enquiries will be treated in strictest confidence. Only Charles Fellowes are to keep a Watching Brief on your career.

SOUTH
Tel: 0171-404 7007

LONDON
Tel: 0171-637 1313

LEEDS
Tel: 0113 246 0600

BRISTOL
Tel: 0117 930 4644

BIRMINGHAM
Tel: 0121-200 3363

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BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS

Basle

£Attractive

This is an unusual and interesting opportunity for a 3 to 5 year qualified lawyer to work in Switzerland for a prestigious international organisation.

The Bank for International Settlements is an international financial institution established in 1930 to promote co-operation between Central Banks. Its chief functions include: providing a forum for discussing international monetary and financial issues; offering banking and investment services to Central Banks and Institutions; acting as trustee or agent in regard to international financial settlements; and conducting monetary and economic research.

The bank's established legal service is essentially an in-house consultancy. It presently comprises five lawyers of Swiss, French, German and US origin. The team now wishes to recruit a UK qualified lawyer. The role is both fascinating and diverse and includes elements of banking, finance, commercial, private international, comparative and public law.

Candidates will be 3 to 5 years qualified, preferably working in the field of international banking law. They will have top academic credentials and will ideally have worked within Continental Europe. Fluency in French and/or German is essential.

TAYLOR & ROOT

LEGAL RECRUITMENT ADVISERS

For further information and a confidential chat, please contact Gavin Burgess on 0171 936 2565 (01727 847445 home) or write to Taylor Root, Ludgate House, 107 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2AB. (Fax 0171 936 2463). Taylor Root are handling this assignment exclusively.

CHAMBERS

New-Style Interviews

It is extraordinary how the simple interview survives as an important selection tool: an artificial conversation between two strangers, one of whom is projecting an image they think the other wishes to see. Its very survival proves that it works, and that it has many advantages over the alternatives. But we are beginning to see signs - especially in the recruitment of lawyers for industry - of new selection methods being used, methods which rely more on simulated work performance tests and less on face-to-face image projection.

One of our candidates recently spent a whole day at his prospective employer's going through a variety of these tests. The shortlisted candidates, three in all, were set a group exercise in which they had to discuss a management problem and propose solutions while being watched by the head of the legal department and the personnel manager. Two of the candidates competed with each other, speaking up forcefully and striving to dominate the session. Our candidate listened to this and then stepped in to make his proposal.

As a result of this test, it was our candidate who was offered the job. He had not been the front runner after the initial interviews, seeming too quiet and reserved, but his abilities which were hidden at interview came through strongly in these practical assessments. So far, his appointment is proving very successful.

It is not our job to prime candidates for interviews, but some general guidance can be useful particularly when the employer is known to favour a selection technique which could catch the candidate unprepared.

Michael Chambers

INDUSTRY & BANKING Sonya Rayner

Commercial Lawyer: South East
Opportunity for a young lawyer c2 yrs' broad comm exp to join pharmaceutical co. Work will involve negotiating and drafting comm contracts. IP exp/scientific background an advantage.

Commercial Lawyer: Midlands
International corporate lawyer with at least 7 yrs' experience including heavyweights mergers and acquisitions to join major PLC as a senior member of its established legal department.

Property Lawyer: Midlands
Opportunity for solicitor with at least 2 yrs' residential and commercial prop exp to join legal dept of construction company. Previous exp of working for a housebuilder would be particularly desirable.

LONDON & PROVINCES London: David Jermyn, David Woolfson
South: Helen Mills, Yasmin Hosein Midlands: Lauren Cochrane

Partnership Positions
We have been assisting partners seeking a career move for over 20 years now and are regularly placing several partners each month.

Employment Partner: City
Thriving firm with reputation in several niche areas seeks successor to retiring partner. Clients include blue-chip cos. Only 25% following necessary.

Co/Comm Ptnr Designate: Holborn
First-rate medium-sized firm (several partners have published standard works) seeks 4-6 yrs qualified solicitor who has started to develop own practice.

Insurance Partner: City
One of the City's most profitable niche firms, particularly good at attracting dissatisfied partners, seeks partner with portable clientbase.

Energy: City
Dynamic medium-sized firm with fast-growing reputation in energy, seeks 18 months to 4 yrs qualified commercial solt with upstream oil and gas exp.

European Legal Adviser: London
Solt or barr with 3-5 yrs' company/commercial experience to join European legal department of well-known hi-tech company. Considerable overseas travel. Short-term appointment initially.

Sole Lawyer: South East
Newly created post for solt with 2-5 yrs' general commercial experience, which should include computer software licensing, to set up legal department of international hi-tech company.

Litigation Executives South East
Experienced legal executive to run high-volume debt collection dept of well-known international manufacturing company. Previous management experience and computer literacy desirable.

Shipping: City
Highly-successful niche shipping firm making major impact in shipping world seeks 1-3 yr qual.

Family Law: Hants Coast
Leading franchised firm seeks family law specialist 2-4 yrs qual for varied private/legal aid work.

Commercial Litigator: Kent
Progressive firm seeks comm litigator with exp in prof negl wk for high qual comm lit caseload.

Commercial Litigation: Northampton
Leading firm seeks 1-3 yr qual comm litigator. Varied caseload including professional negligence.

Part-Time Information: Birmingham
Opening for solt seeking 2-3 day week, drafting corp/comm precedents & running briefing sessions.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT
74 Long Lane, London EC1A 9ET
Tel: 0171-606 9371 Fax: 0171-606 1793

COMPANY/
COMMERCIAL LAWYER

Our Company Commercial Department is consistently expanding and handles a broad spectrum of company matters with property related elements.

An opportunity has arisen for a lawyer with not less than two years post qualification experience who in dealing with work of a demanding nature will combine his or her skills with a mature awareness of the client's needs. There will be full client contact and the successful applicant will be expected to apply his or her legal skills in a professional and pragmatic manner.

The remuneration will match the calibre of the appointee and long term prospects will be based on merit and ability.

Please apply to:

The Staff Partner
McKinty & Wright
Solicitors
Eagle Star House
5/7 Upper Queen Street
Belfast BT1 6FS

MAPLES and CALDER Asia
CAPITAL MARKETS AND MUTUAL FUNDS
CORPORATE LAWYER
HONG KONG

We wish to recruit an additional solicitor with impeccable qualifications to join our Hong Kong office and to assist the expansion of our Cayman Islands legal practice in Asia.

The ideal applicant will have a first class academic background, three to five years post-qualification experience with a leading City firm and will look forward to joining a firm advising in relation to a demanding mix of international finance, banking, corporate, mutual fund and capital markets transactions. The financial rewards and career prospects are excellent.

The salary will be in the region of US\$135,000 plus appropriate housing allowance.

Applications with a CV should be addressed to Timothy Ridley/ Sharon Pierson, Maples and Calder Asia, Suite 1002, One Exchange Square, 8 Connaught Place, Central, Hong Kong.

Tel: (852) 2522-9333
Fax: (852) 2537-2955

IT'S TIME TO CHANGE

IT/TELECOMS

Close-knit dedicated IT/telecoms group of leading City practice seeks assistant solicitor at 3-5 year level to be integral part of further development. If you relish the opportunity to build your practice further, focusing your own and the firm's excellent contacts, this is an ideal position. Long-term prospects are first class. Ref: T20067

IN-HOUSE COMMERCIAL

Solicitor or barrister with around 3-5 years' post of company work gained either in private practice or in-house now required. This is a major bank based in the City. Some exposure to PSA work would be ideal. Particular transactions include joint ventures, general contract law, loan schemes, product development and sponsorship and promotions. Ref: T19871

CONSTRUCTION

This well-known medium-sized practice based in the City is now searching for a good construction lawyer with around 2-4 years' heavy-weight experience. Both contentious and non-contentious lawyers are required. Commercial acumen and down to earth approach essential. Ref: T1921

CORPORATE TAX

Are you a high-calibre, ambitious corporate tax lawyer with between 2-4 years' post seeking fresh challenges? If so, this major City firm is seeking to further enhance its existing department. It deals with an impressive range of transactional and advisory work for its major corporate and financial clients. Excellent prospects. Ref: T20077

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Dominique Pengelly or Emma Cornwell (both qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0181-960 6144 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougal Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4ET. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394.



UNITED KINGDOM • HONG KONG • NEW ZEALAND • AUSTRALIA • USA

PROPERTY

This thriving City practice is seeking an additional assistant to further enhance its established property department. You should have in the region of 1-3 years' general property experience. The department's clients are predominantly in the financial services sector. Excellent career opportunities for the successful individual. Ref: T20052

INSURANCE LITIGATOR

This established City firm is acknowledged as a major player in the City's re-insurance field. It now requires a further re-insurance lawyer of between 2-5 years' post to further strengthen its existing team. You must have solid insurance experience coupled with a basic understanding and keen interest in the re-insurance market. Ref: T16510

PENSIONS LAWYER

With 1-3 years' experience of good quality pensions law, the ideal applicant for this top City practice will also have a good academic background and the drive and personality required to get partnership in due course. This section of the firm is highly respected and has its own clients. Ref: T17306

BANKING

This City firm is seeking an additional banking lawyer with in the region of 2 years' post. You should have a broad range of banking experience and ideally, but by no means essentially, some insolvency experience also. You will handle high quality general banking work including acquisition finance and secured lending on behalf of both borrowers and lenders. Ref: T19199

To £39,000

To £57,000

To £36,000

To £35,000

MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE PARTNER

£50,000-£100,000

A leading medium-sized City firm, our Client has a broad litigation practice, including a strong reputation in medical work.

The firm is now seeking to expand its specialist team, which handles defendant work, particularly for hospitals, ranging from standard clinical negligence to high profile matters such as HIV and radiation claims.

The lawyer sought will have at least five years' specialist expertise in defendant medical negligence, preferably having acted for hospital clients. He or she may already be a partner and will have commercial and marketing skills, ideally demonstrated by some following.

The successful applicant may come from a London or respected provincial firm. This appointment will command an excellent initial package and offers a real long term career path.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Jonathan Macrae or Miranda Smyth on 0171-377 0510 (0171-226 1558 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail joe@zmb.co.uk

ZARAK
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International Law Firm

Tax Lawyers - London

The Firm

- We are a successful, progressive firm of solicitors with offices in London, New York, Paris and other European cities.
- The firm serves a global client base, acting for many international companies and financial institutions. Our aim is to respond quickly to our clients' needs with clear and practical legal advice.
- A personal approach combined with the highest professional standards gives us the ability to compete successfully for high quality commercial work.

The Position

- As part of continued expansion, the tax department seeks to recruit a further assistant solicitor to advise clients of the department, as well as other lawyers in the practice, on the tax aspects of transactions.
- Work will encompass a variety of corporate tax matters including aspects of asset and structured finance, international tax structuring, as well as a wide range of tax issues arising from our work, including VAT.

The Person

- You should possess a strong academic background and 2-3 years' experience of a wide range of corporate tax issues gained within a top City practice.
- Enthusiasm, energy and the ability to operate in a demanding environment are required.

Please apply in writing enclosing a full CV to Carolyn Mower, Personnel Manager, Watson, Farley & Williams, 15 Appold Street, London EC2A 2HB. Alternatively, telephone me in confidence on 0171-814 8100 if you would like to find out more prior to applying. Strictly no agencies.



WATSON, FARLEY & WILLIAMS

HASELTINE LAKE TRADEMARKS

Trade Mark Agent

Hasetline Lake Trademarks is one of the UK's largest firms of Trade Mark Agents with a wide range of UK and overseas direct clients. As a result of a substantial workload we are seeking an experienced, enthusiastic and hardworking Trade Mark Agent to join our friendly London team. Your responsibilities will cover all issues relative to major clients.

The successful applicant will be recently qualified or part-qualified Trade Mark Agent. Your initial salary will be dependent on experience and qualifications. The benefits package will include performance related bonus and non-contributory pension after one year's service. If you are part-qualified, assistance will be given to completing your professional examinations including attendance at courses and study leave.

If you are interested in this appointment please send a comprehensive C.V. to Mr Christopher J. Leadbeater, Hasetline Lake Trademarks, Hazlett House, 22 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1AT (Tel: 0171 242 4176, Fax 0171 404 7028)

U.S. Qualified Attorney

The London office of a leading U.S. law firm is seeking a U.S. qualified attorney with excellent academic credentials and 3-6 years' experience, preferably including some litigation experience. Suitable candidates must possess the maturity and judgement to supervise outside counsel and manage an active litigation program. In addition, candidates should be sufficiently flexible to handle a broad range of issues and respond to the demands of this growing and varied practice.

Qualified candidates should forward a detailed CV and cover letter to:
Box No 3698
c/o Times Newspapers
PO Box 3553
Virginia Street
London E1 9GA

Richard Owen & Harper

LEGAL RECRUITMENT

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL

Central London Early Partnership
The partners of this full-service commercial firm in Central London have taken the policy decision to expand their company commercial department. This is strategic development. The individual sought will have an impressive track record of proven ability, sound experience which includes Yellow Book and Blue Book work and be up to 35 years old. There is a clear path to early partnership envisaged.
Contact LONDON office. Ref: HSL013.

DEFENDANT PI SOLICITOR

Liverpool £22,500
An exceptional opportunity to join one of the region's most prominent insurance orientated firms, which seeks to appoint a solicitor with a minimum of two years' post of either plaintiff or defendant matters to their successful defendant personal injury team. Wide range of high quality work in a firm which is committed to modern and efficient case handling systems. Good medium term prospects.
Contact MANCHESTER office. Ref: SM9032.

INTERNATIONAL TAX

In-house Every Attractive
Exceptional opportunity at prestigious international bank. Working at senior level, either in-house or at a leading law firm, you will have gained top class international tax expertise including management finance matters. With ten to twelve years' experience you should balance technical skills with an outgoing personality and have the ability to see the broader commercial picture in all transactions in which you are involved.
Contact LONDON office. Ref: HSL012.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL - SENIOR

Sussex to £38,000
Real management role leading to early partnership within dedicated commercial office is offered to accomplished professional of c three to five years' post. As the clear leader in provincial practice in the area, the firm has installed sophisticated technology and is in a position to offer exceptional back up and support. A firm believer in durable commercial relationships, the practice boasts an enviable array of plc's and larger and medium sized private companies.
Contact SOUTHERN office. Ref: CL1073.

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Applications should be sent to Angela Goodall, Personnel Officer, Butterworths Ltd, Halsbury House, 35 Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1EL. Please mark clearly which position you are interested in. Closing date: 21 March 1995. We have a no smoking policy.

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Interested candidates should send a CV to either Bob Silver, Head of the Film & Television Department or Andy Simson, Head of the Music Department at Harbottle & Lewis, Hanover House, 14 Hanover Square, London W1R 0BE. Tel: 0171 629 7633 Fax: 0171 493 0451.

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SOLICITOR

The Royal College of Nursing, the world's largest professional union of nurses, provides a legal advice and representation service to its members. The Legal Department is devolving to meet the increased demands from a membership growing both in numbers and in awareness of legal rights.

We now seek a specialist employment law Solicitor for the North of England team, to be based in our Leeds office. You will be expected to provide a comprehensive service of employment law advice and representation to members and officers in the north of England and Wales. This work is mainly contentious.

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The salary range for this position is £23,478-£30,897pa. Excellent conditions of service including a non-smoking environment.

For further details and an application form (CV's in isolation will not be accepted), write to the Personnel Department, RCN, 20 Cavendish Square, London W1M 0AB, or telephone 0171-409 1244 (24 hours) quoting ref: RCN/1646. Closing date for receipt of applications: 31st March. Interviews will be held in Leeds on 19th April 1995.

The RCN is committed to equal opportunities and welcomes applications from job sharers.



Who dares to resolve, wins

What images do non-lawyers associate with the law? For many, a courtroom will come to mind. The court of our imaginings is likely to be large, draughty and dimly lit. Too large for those who inhabit it — as if built for legal giants of another era.

The court is now peopled by a closed order looking and behaving like nobody else we know, speaking a language few understand. This is a caricature, but by no means a fantasy. The essence of the vision is of an institution which ordinary people cannot understand or relate to. The system is unapproachable and, for most people, hopelessly unaffordable.

Much can be done to improve the existing system of civil law. I am confident that Lord Woolf's review will lead to welcome and radical changes. The senior judiciary have increasingly shown a real enthusiasm for gaining control over the conduct of litigation. But these reforms can only go so far. An adversarial system grappling with a highly complicated legal environment requiring the involvement of experts will inevitably be expensive. It will also inevitably be prone to delay. Left alone, the courts will never be able to deliver equal access to justice for all. Lord Benson, a valiant champion of reform who sadly died last week, reminded us 15 years ago, in the report from the Royal Commission on Legal Services which he chaired, that equal access to justice was the hallmark of a civilised society.

In the years since then, that fine ambition has been increasingly mocked by reality. We must look more radically, more imaginatively and more urgently for different ways of offering legal services.

Traditional legal processes will always have a vital role to play. What we must not do is to overload them with disputes and issues

Lord Alexander of Weedon, QC, urges a radical rethink on our civil justice system

which can be better settled elsewhere and in a different way. There are better ways. Some are being pioneered in the UK. Take the growing band of ombudsmen. The ombudsmen are not delivering second-class justice — they are delivering an accessible, efficient and effective service tailored to meet the needs of those they service. Take Acas as another example — an established service with a largely unsung story. Consider also the achievements of family mediation services. Look at the 85 per cent plus success rate reported by alternative dispute resolution bodies. Look at the costs — the Centre for Dispute Resolution reports typical mediator costs in the range of £800 to £1,500 per party. The use of these alternative means of resolving disputes is increasing: the market is giving a clear message about the cost and cumbersome nature of court proceedings.

But the UK lags far behind some other countries in offering informal, flexible ways of solving disputes. Others have developed many more diverse and successful alternatives to traditional litigation, such as the "multi-door court-houses" in the United States — institutions offering a wide range of processes to resolve disputes — and avenues such as mediation, non-binding arbitration, the mini-trial, executive trials and expert evaluation.

A recent survey has shown that 150 or so leading companies esti-



Lord Alexander: reforms of court procedure are not enough

mated that they had saved more than \$100 million (£62.5 million) in legal expenses in just one year as a result of using such techniques. And it is not just companies which benefit. The training of pupils in mediation skills in some US schools is reported to have been successful in reducing tension and violence.

In the UK we need to learn the lessons not only of our predicament, but also of the quiet revolution which has taken place abroad, and particularly in common-law jurisdictions such as America, Aus-

tralia, Canada and Hong Kong. Most people do not want their "day in court". Too many are terrified at the prospect. They seek an independent but informal and constructive solution of their concerns and disputes: a solution which is prompt, affordable, comprehensible and which does not intimidate. In short they want full access to justice, not only to one particular means of dispensing justice.

Across the whole social and economic scene the emphasis is on delivering services to people in flexible tailored forms and giving

them choice. From my own current vantage point in banking, another profession which was slow to change but is now doing so rapidly, the need to provide customer choice is demonstrable. Customers want services suited to their particular needs, delivered in a convenient way, in a convenient place and at a convenient time. So we now have more cash dispensers than branches. Telephone banking at a time to suit customers is growing rapidly. Interactive video services are on the way.

Of course, justice is not just a business. But the civil justice system is in essence a service. Reforms of court procedure offer great prizes. But, and this will be the theme of my Child & Co lecture tomorrow, they will never be enough. Flexible, informal means of resolving disputes, with a diversity of choice, and without monopoly suppliers, must all be part of the mix. This will call for the most radical changes of attitude from government, from judges, from lawyers and from those who educate lawyers.

For too long legal education has been skills-based, with lawyers trained to "win" rather than resolve problems. This emphasis should change. Underlying the law is a deep morality, and its practice must be a holistic, moral discipline. As Warren Burger, formerly Chief Justice of the United States, once observed, we need more reconcilers and fewer warriors.

Lord Alexander, chairman of the National Westminster Bank, will give the Child & Co lecture tomorrow at the Morrison Hall, Gray's Inn, at 5.30pm. Child & Co, the Royal Bank of Scotland's private banking arm, decided on the 30th anniversary in 1973 of the firm's establishment to mark its close association with the legal profession by offering an annual sum to advance legal knowledge, and a series of annual lectures at the Inns of Court School of Law.

Hidden costs of price cuts

Too many lawyers are now marketing the wrong services at the wrong price — and to the wrong clients

When lawyers and accountants met last month at the annual "Competitive Marketing for Accountants and Solicitors" conference sponsored by *The Times*, the full shock of the Barings crisis was still sinking in.

The bank's collapse was a timely reminder that disaster may be only a weekend away, no matter the organisation involved. As David McIntosh, senior partner at Davies Arnold Cooper, told the audience, closures of offices and redundancies among law firms are common.

"Quite well-known firms are in what appears to be terminal decline and far too many are exploring mergers as the only way to survive," he said.

Apart from the problem that there are probably too many law firms, the nub of the challenge that many solicitors now face is linked to marketing: too many are offering the wrong services at the wrong price to the wrong clients.

A poignant warning of the shape of things to come came from Miles Smith, solicitor to Croydon council. As the man responsible for contracting out the council's legal services, he gave a sharp reminder that only experienced lawyers with "a constructive approach to fees" need apply. In other words, do not patronise the client; just be thankful that you've got the work.

The message from the conference was that hard commercial realities are hitting home. The recession has brought more work — Mr Smith emphasised that even in Croydon there would be "a very substantial total available to market" — but this did not signal a return to easy days and easy money.

The old loyalty of client to lawyer is now almost totally dead. We are in the age of the "beauty parade" and with firms desperate for work it is easy to

lose established clients who have been seduced by the lure of low fees elsewhere.

Mr McIntosh said: "Well thought-out and fairly presented invitations to tender are, at the moment, vastly outnumbered by ill-considered and purely price-driven exercises." This bogey of "lowballing" (ridiculously low fees) can also be a problem. But clients may believe that they cannot lose. By holding fees down on professionals who are guaranteed to provide a competent service, they think they have nothing to lose by going for the cheapest possible deal.

But as Mr McIntosh says, "Those whose approach is dominated by budgetary constraints demonstrate penny-wise, pound-foolish attitudes... those willing to provide important legal services at rock-bottom prices are always likely to try to achieve a profit by cutting corners."

In other words, firms may be able to deliver the goods but whether they do so is another matter. Reputation here becomes all-important. Roger Haywood of Kestrel Communications said: "Managing your reputation... is the biggest factor in business. Because reputation is so complex, so sensitive, so influenced by so many factors and moulded by everyone in your team, it should not be left to chance."

Perhaps the best single piece of advice to emerge from the conference was that the most effective way to build reputation and to show a firm's strengths is through holding small seminars to which potential clients are personally invited. It beats every other marketing technique hands down.

Why? It serves as a showroom for personality and professionalism. And any clients worth having will value both.

EDWARD FENNELL

Bar students face a rise in fees

BAR students next year are likely to face a sharp rise in fees. The Inns of Court are removing their subsidy of the Inns of Court School of Law now that it is no longer to have a monopoly on training. Fees are likely to go up from about £4,000 to nearer £5,000.

A SERIES of evening courses on immigration law, child law and advocacy, a new joint initiative between the Society of Black

LEGAL NEWS ROUNDUP

Lawyers and Bar school, starts this week. Makboul Javadi, the chairman of the society, said: "We see this as a tangible way in which the Bar school can help us to meet the needs of black lawyers."

Details: Mr Javadi (0171-828 7022)

THE two-day National Law Fair opens at Telford International Centre today. The fair is aimed at guiding would-be solicitors in the right direction for a successful career. A hundred law firms will be there as well as representatives from universities to discuss

law degrees. Banks will be advising on loans. The National Westminster Bank, for example, offers special loan facilities under its trainee solicitors' group loan scheme to students on the Law Society legal practice course who have a firm offer of a training contract.

Details: Debbie Davey or Andrew Coates (01823 433933)

HALF a million cleaners now have the same legal protection as full-time employees. Simon Jeffreys, an employment law

specialist with McKenna & Co, the City law firm, says that even those working a few hours a week can benefit from the new employment rights after the change in the law on February 6.

He says: "Dailies and other domestic workers are really employees and are now entitled to written contracts, statutory notice and maternity rights. They can claim for unfair dismissal and redundancy pay just like other workers when their jobs end."

He advises that budgets for those moving house should "prudently include redundancy money for the daily or gardener".

FRANCES GIBB

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS



THE LAW OFFICERS OF THE CROWN GUERNEY require A LEGISLATIVE DRAFTSMAN

Guernsey is a self governing dependency of the Crown. H M Attorney General and H M Solicitor General are the legal advisers in Guernsey both to Her Majesty and to the States of Guernsey (the Island government). Their duties include the drafting of all legislation on behalf of the States, providing legal advice to the States and their Committees and responsibility for criminal prosecutions.

A vacancy has arisen in the Chambers of the Law Officers for a legislative draftsman.

Applicants should be barristers or solicitors and have experience of drafting legislation. His or her principal duties will be the preparation of legislation and the giving of general legal advice to the Crown and to the States.

The successful applicant will join a team of 4 professional lawyers, 3 of whom are Crown Advocates; will be encouraged to qualify as an Advocate of the Royal Court in order to appear, in due course, before the Courts and Tribunals of the Island; and will then have the prospect of being appointed a Crown Advocate.

The appointment will be on a permanent basis. The salary will be determined by the States Civil Service Board and will be according to qualifications and experience, though the initial salary is likely to be in the region of £34,000 to £36,000.

Further information on the post, application forms and notes on the conditions of service, may be obtained from the Secretary to the Law Officers, St James Chambers, St Peter Port, Guernsey, GY1 2JG (telephone 01481 723355).

Completed application forms should be returned to the Head of Personnel and Establishments, Civil Service Board, Sir Charles Frossard House, La Charroterie, St Peter Port, Guernsey, GY1 1FH to arrive no later than 14 April 1995.

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Fuller details available from Professor A.L. Diamond, co-Director, London Law Centre, University of Notre Dame, 7 Albemarle Street, London W1X 4NB (0171-493 9002, FAX 0171-408 4465).

The review of applications received will commence on March 31 1995 with a view to the holding of preliminary interviews in April.

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For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Greg Abrahams on 0171-405 6062 (0171-266 5601 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Quarry Douglas Commerce & Industry Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4HL. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.



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Ms Vanessa Peters
Head of Administration and Clerk to the Council
Personal Investment Authority Ombudsman Bureau
6th Floor, 1 London Wall
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Our Crown Court department is expanding and we now require a further advocate. Applications are invited from barristers of at least 2 years call, who have a good criminal law background and who are willing to qualify as solicitors. The firm has an excellent reputation and the work is demanding, but rewarding. There are good career prospects and job security. The working atmosphere is friendly and informal. The post is ideal for those who wish to have close management and maximum control of their own work-load. The firm is based in Central Derby, close to the Dales and The Peak District. Working hours are suitable and the quality of life excellent. For further details please contact Graham Dean or Keith Raynor on 01332 346084

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Please send your C.V. or résumé, in total confidence, to D.J. Guiney, Brobeck Hale and Dorr, Veritas House, 125 Finsbury Pavement, London EC2A 1NQ, or fax (44) (171) 638 5888



VISUAL ART page 37

The New York-based sculptor Kiki Smith brings her disturbing vision to London

ARTS

LITERATURE page 38

No big cause left for writers in Eastern Europe? Miroslav Holub gives his view



An angel lands in Sussex

Benedict Nightingale on how the West End producer Duncan Weldon put together a starry rescue package for Chichester

When the impresario Duncan Weldon was asked last year to take over as director of the Chichester Festival Theatre, his reaction was mild disbelief. Why employ him to do what in a less systematic, less complete way he was doing already? Again and again he has put money into Chichester productions and again and again transferred them to London. That was a pattern everybody wanted to continue.

But the more he pondered the idea, the more it grew on him. Thirty years ago he began his career by running a rep theatre in Lytham St Anne's — "and I thought, why not end it that way too?" In 1999, Weldon will be 58, and, he suspects, contemplating retirement. By then he hopes to have extended Chichester's summer season into a year-round operation, found some new, younger audiences and put it back where it was when Olivier's National Theatre company launched it in 1962: somewhere at the centre of the theatrical map.

Can he accomplish that? With his own contacts and the right person at his side, maybe he can. When he accepted a four-year contract last September, it was on the condition that a leading actor or actress would become artistic director to his "theatre director". Derek Jacobi agreed to be the first. And within a remarkably short time, they came up with a season for 1995 that should help to end one of Britain's remaining blood sports: attacking the Festival Theatre for being one of the more pedestrian precincts in one of the most sedate southern cities.

Would you credit Lauren Bacall as the murderous billionaire in Friedrich Dürrenmatt's *Visit*? That ends a season which opens in late April with Jacobi in a revival of Peter Luke's *Hadrian VII* and continues with Leo McKern in Brighouse's

Hobson's Choice, a starry *School For Scandal*, and Ian Richardson returning to the stage after 14 years as Molière's *Miser*. Meanwhile, Harold Pinter will be appearing in the studio theatre, the Minerva, in a revival of his own *Hothouse*, and directing Ronald Harwood's new *Taking Sides*, about the accusations of Nazism directed at the conductor Furtwängler. Add the latest Alan Ayckbourn, a play about Strindberg by Ronald Hayman, and Keith Michell in a French comedy called *Monsieur Amélie* and Chichester could have wiped metropolitan faces clean of patronising smirks by the season's close in early October.

How was such an unprecedented long season arranged in so short a time? Well, Jacobi had anyway been planning to perform Luke's imaginary Pope for Weldon. He also brought Hayman's *Playing The Wife* to Chichester's attention. But he has recently been off in Budapest with cowl and candles, re-creating Brother Cadfael in a new series of small-screen adaptations of Ellis Peters's medieval detective stories. So it fell to Weldon to phone old chums, call in favours and relocate productions he would anyway have done in the West End. The revival of *School For Scandal*, which brings Ian Carmichael back to the stage after nobody can recall how many years, is in the last category.

The conventional wisdom is that to succeed at Chichester you must dig up the late Alistair Sim and Margaret Rutherford and cast them in a Pinter farce. When Michael Rudman took over the theatre in 1990 and brought it a musical version of Eugene Ionesco's *Rhinoceros* and Graham Greene's *The Power and the Glory*, the losses were such that the board soon replaced him with the squarer Patrick Garland. The conclusion Weldon draws from this is that, yes, Chichester may present unexpected



Producing success: Duncan Weldon promises to be a thorn in the side of the funding bodies but is realist enough to know that he still has to sell a lot of tickets

plays in its main house but must compensate in the casting. Edward Petherbridge, fine actor though he is, was not familiar enough to take the blight off Greene's whisky priest, Richardson, who combines classical credentials with television fame, should give Molière a commercial as well as an artistic lift.

The reason such calculations have to be made is that the theatre starts at a disadvantage compared with less adventurous reps, let alone the National and RSC. It has never received a penny in public subsidy. This greatly irks Weldon and he promises to become "a thorn in the side" of the funding bodies in the months ahead; but meanwhile he is enough of a realist to know he must sell a lot of tickets or face a new crisis. Even though no actor earns more than £600 a week in the main house and £350 in the Minerva, the theatre needs to fill a minimum of two-thirds of its seats to cover its costs.

Of course, successful transfers can make the difference between failure and prosperity. To date, Weldon has taken 30 plays from Chichester to the West End. Half of these, among them Maggie Smith in *The Way Of The World*, he helped to finance from the

start. The other half, for example Alan Bates in Osborne's *Patriot For Me*, attracted him later. This year, he is putting his own money into *Hadrian VII* and expects to put "a lot" into *The Visit*. Several other plays may move to London, though not necessarily with Weldon as producer. Moreover, Ayckbourn's *Word From Our Sponsor* comes straight from Scarborough, and *The School For Scandal* is going straight to the Crucible, Sheffield. Such ties with regional reps will probably increase during the Weldon years. Everybody benefits. Costs are shared, wider audiences reached and, if a play moves to London, there is a chance of profits both for Chichester and the West End producer.

This is not a unique way of operating nowadays. Bristol Old Vic, Birmingham Rep and a commercial company called Pericles will all share in the likely success of David Thacker's revival of Arthur Miller's *A View From The Bridge*, due soon in London. Nor is it foolproof. Joan Collins and Omar Sharif both did a lot better with, respectively, *The Last Of Mrs Cheyney* and *The Sleeping Prince* in West Sussex than the West End. But Chichester makes an espe-

cially strong partner: close to London and with a history that began with Olivier in *Vanya and Othello* and has embraced performers from Donald Sinden to Ingrid Bergman, Eileen Atkins to Diana Rigg.

But Weldon knows that history can be a burden as well as an inspiration. He is not criticising an audience that, however conservative its tastes, has kept an unsubsidised theatre alive for 33 years; but he thinks more adventurous offerings would refresh and rejuvenate it. He hopes to stage regular productions in the winter, when the theatre usually takes in touring work. He thinks it is time that Chichester, which once gave house-rooms to Arden and Bolt, presented a major new play or two.

We may at last see something new from John Mortimer, of *Rumpole* fame, who has been away from the theatre for far too long. Ditto with Peter Shaffer, whose *Royal Hunt Of The Sun* established him as a serious dramatist at Chichester in 1964. Other playwrights, and several leading actors, are currently getting phone calls from Weldon, as he plans for 1996 and beyond. If his warily ambitious approach fails the theatre, well, what can make it succeed?

ible mother, is wonderfully sassy. Playing Jackie's sister, Pogson is assertively power-shouldered and slumps drolly into her whiskey, though perhaps unsure how Maggie hangs together.

Reddin's short scenes can be as snappy as film and theatrically stylish. Located at the airport or a restaurant, in a bar or in bed, they do require frequent set changes. Jake Lushington copes masterfully, choreographing the cast with swish succinctness. Christopher Oram's design is equally neat, conveying all the rigidity of Jackie's home in a pole-backed settee or capturing America in a mosquito mesh across a standing door.

But the story lacks an ultimate goal and incompletely explores Maggie's involvement in Alcoholics Anonymous, an implicit parallel with her sister's needy obsession with the Witnesses. The play never gets as pained as the title might suggest. However, Peter Hamilton Dyer's Bible-bearing Chris, taking creeping control of Jackie's life, accrues sinister iciness.

KATE BASSETT

POP: P. J. Harvey brings us her love

Polly puts her mettle on

P. J. Harvey
Empire, W12

WHEN Polly Jean Harvey first unleashed the punk attitudes and wiry guitars that characterised her debut album, *Dry*, in 1992, it was immediately clear that here was a British artist who was destined to be a significant player. Her next album, *Rid of Me*, was full of spiky, wild promise, but it is her most recent release, *To Bring You My Love*, that shows Harvey's astonishing talent in its full flower.

This sold-out third-album tour — something of a dream ticket with support from Tricky, whose debut album, *Maxinquaye*, has

launched the Bristol-based rapper-instrumentalist towards his own stardom — shows just how far Harvey has shifted her mode of operations. The Patti Smith tendencies have been reined in and her music now includes a glowering mutated blues reminiscent of Nick Cave, while her vocal range and textures have broadened to accommodate the move. This has allowed her to exert a new, hard-edged control over songs such as her first single, *Dress*, and, from *Rid of Me*, *Soft Queenie*, *Hook and Legs*, but the latest material is the main beneficiary. Painted in intensely emotional colours, *To Bring You My Love*, *Meet Ze Monsta* and *Down By The Water* were simultaneously seductive and alarming.

This image was carefully created by Harvey's new image. Clad in a slinky red dress, with her dark hair flowing loosely, here was a

brave experiment in female iconography. Femme fatale, vamp, maniac and fury were all evoked. By passing guitar duties to John Parish and, from Tom Waits's band, Joe Gore, Harvey explored an unusual choreography. Slow, fluid lines, often in relief, sped up to match the music, while the stage's careful framing — blue and blood-red lights — were the perfect complement.

Harvey's compelling performance was enhanced by an excellent five-piece band, whose sensitivity for these difficult songs of varying momentum was readily apparent. Drummer Jean-Marc Butty and percussionist-bassist Nick Bagnall provided a solid base, while surface movements came from the two guitarists in tandem with Eric Feldman's keyboards. This was powerful, mesmerising stuff, and it was gratifying that Harvey's performance drew the rapt attention of an audience that included Cave, Björk and Tori Amos, three of rock's most currently inventive songwriters.

Harvey has transcended, perhaps transgressed, all her origins and, on the strength of present form, is set to become the most innovative and inspirational figure on the British scene.

LOUISE GRAY



In full flower: Harvey's image is a bold experiment in female iconography, from vamp to maniac

Gone west, young woman

LONDON FRINGE THEATRE

York is in trouble. Mark Davies Markham's script lets her down. He seems to be exploring a woman's life: physical abuse; a lost baby; unsatisfactory sex; the search for liberation and tender loving care. Yet he never genuinely gets below the surface. In a country song, archetypes and a shot of sentimentality are palatable. In a 90-minute monologue, one wants more.

In blonde wig and high-heeled boots, uncannily combining youthfulness and encroaching age, York looks the part. Her speaking voice is velvety with a husky edge. However, her singing verges on the raucous while never letting rip. She gets into the swing of Patti's Irishness yet goes wide of the mark replaying conversations with American fellas or cockney punks. Director Robert Cherwyn moves her about between



The Brutality of Fact: Marjorie Yates, Barbara Barnes

downstage chair and upstage trunk often enough, but she seems to spend an awful lot of time on her back, generally recalling giving men pleasure.

AMERICAN playwright Keith Reddin draws acerbically funny portraits of cranky families. In *Innocent's Cru-*

sade, recently at The Grace, he pursued one absurdly sorry bunch round the parking lots of America as a teenage son made a hash of infinite college interviews then turned into a Messiah with disciples in tow.

Now, at the New End in Hampstead, played by an exceptionally distinguished

cast, including Kathryn Pogson and Marjorie Yates, comes *The Brutality of Fact*. This short play, showing Reddin's art coming on apace, is again obsessed with cults, unbalanced nobodies gaining power and curious messengers of death. It is about a formerly estranged — and irredeemably strange — family of mother and daughters: an amnesiac; an alcoholic; a born-again; some popping in from the afterlife.

Though bold, Reddin's dream sequences, in which the characters appear as ghosts, do not gel. But he satirises Jehovah's Witnesses with joyfully acute wit, and the Angel Theatre Company combines the off-the-wall with finely worked characterisation. Barbara Barnes gives a beautifully uncaricatured, bitingly amusing performance as the pent-up Jesus-freak, Jackie, quietly poisoning her Christian niceness with spiteful digs at her unsaved relatives, Marjorie Yates, as her unconvert-

DOUBTLESS Westminster Cathedral's centenary is also being marked by the highest of high Masses. But the great event on Friday seemed equally apt as a celebration of English Catholicism. Here were Cardinal Newman's words, Elgar's music, a soul's journey through death and beyond — and a nave packed with an audience intent, it seemed, on following every intricate theological nuance of *The Dream of Gerontius*.

With its huge Crucifix suspended high over the chorus (no worries about "cultural baggage" here), Westminster Cathedral does seem designed specifically to house performances of *Gerontius*. Indeed, this most metaphysical of oratorios received its London premiere there in 1903. But the very vastness of the place

CHORAL MUSIC: *Gerontius* at a Westminster centenary, and a Cambridge premiere

Cardinal rules of life after death

brings problems. Sounds wash around rather than travel directly from source to ear; text disappears; normal rapport between performers and audiences is suspended.

So it was not surprising that the climaxes lacked ideal impact, or that some drama went missing. Nevertheless, Andrew Davis's broadly-paced and admirably controlled interpretation with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus had compelling nobility, as well as soloists who sang with heartfelt purpose. As *Gerontius*, Dennis O'Neill occasionally slid towards big

notes, but found them securely enough. Alastair Miles was an explosive Priest; and Jean Rigby was that rare creature: an Angel who brought warm, comforting contralto sound to *Softly and Gently*, yet could also deliver a thrilling top A.

These days, Newman's explicit portrayal of life after death may seem presumptuous or plain distasteful to Christians — and simply bizarre to non-believers. But when buttressed by Elgar's music, the imaginative audacity of the poem still transfixes. Not often does choral music grapple with huge philosophi-

cal ideas; and when it does (as in Tippett's *Vision of St Augustine*, for instance), the stature of *Gerontius* becomes apparent by comparison.

By chance, the weekend brought the premiere of another work of similar ambition. In King's College Chapel, the Cambridge University Musical Society chorus and orchestra, conducted by Stephen Cleobury, gave the first performance of *Canticum Luminis* by Robert Saxton. Commissioned to mark CUMS's 150th anniversary, the work is also dedicated to the memory of Saxton's for-

mer Cambridge music tutor, Peter le Huray — who, as Saxton notes, "urged his students to think clearly and behave rationally". That's true, although le Huray didn't succeed too well with me. But Saxton's piece — a 25-minute setting of Latin texts by Isaac Newton and the Roman philosopher Lucretius, about the nature of light — is a lucid exposition of those very qualities.

Both Newton and Lucretius were concerned to dispel the fog of superstition by objective observation and rational analysis. For light, perhaps, read

enlightenment. Saxton's music, while teeming with complex counterpoints, derives most of its impact from choral entries that begin as single notes and then splinter off into rich clusters. The effect of white light passing through a prism is clearly evoked. There is also an ecstatic solo for soprano, gamely delivered by Teresa Cahill.

Though a sameness of texture prevents the piece from becoming truly memorable, it does work up a pulsating passion. That was enhanced here by superbly drilled singing from the Cambridge students. Would that more mature choral societies emulated their diction and intonation.

RICHARD MORRISON

VISUAL ART: New work in London; the Maastricht Fair; prints in Edinburgh; and other selected shows

Out on a limb and in distress

Richard Cork explores the disturbing images of Kiki Smith and Rita Donagh, as revealed in current London shows

Walking into Kiki Smith's show at the Whitechapel Art Gallery is like encountering the aftermath of an atrocity. Ahead, dominating the centre of the high, white space, four plaster limbs dangle from a hammock-like stretch of canvas. Two arms, two legs. All apparently severed, and hanging as forlornly as blood-drained trophies left behind by some marauding murderer.

From the outset, then, Smith warns us that her work offers no comfort for our comfort. The rest of the show, her first one-person exhibition at a British public gallery, may not contain any more references to butchery. But this New York-based sculptor puts forward a vision as grim and disconcerting as the toughest aspects of the city she inhabits.

Smith turns the Whitechapel's big downstairs arena into a secular cathedral. The nave is empty, apart from the suspended white limbs. As for the aisles, they are occupied by figures whose states of distress echo the anguish conveyed by martyred saints in ecclesiastical statuary.

Nor is this a fanciful connection. Although Smith enjoys a high reputation, as one of the most powerful artists to have emerged from the United States in recent years, she has more in common with the past than the present. Her bronze *Mary Magdalene*, with head thrown back in agony and one leg trapped by a chain, looks like a homage to Donatello's carving of the same penitent. The hair courses down Mary's naked body like a swollen river of tears. She epitomises Smith's belief that artists should not be inhibited about conveying dejection, and that the female form in particular is often a vessel for suffering.

Until now, Smith's most widely debated sculpture was *Virgin Mary*, a life-size flayed Madonna in coloured wax. The raw exposure of her insides summed up a determination on the artist's part to show women at their most visceral and vulnerable. In this exhibition, though, her emphasis is mainly on bodies viewed from without. The nearest Smith gets to dissection is in a painted bronze called *Blood Pool*, where the woman lies on the floor in a semi-fetial position. She seems oddly paralysed, like the lava-smothered victims unearthed at Pompeii. But the most alarming part of the sculpture is her spine, an exposed white bone projecting painfully from the red flesh.

Even when the figures are intact, they appear worn and despondent. One woman lies hunched on a steel scaffold, in retreat from the world and oblivious of the dead sunflowers dangling from her resting-place. Another sits wanly on the floor, arms wound tight around her knees. From her eyes, paper *mâché* streamers run in thin lines towards the wall, where they are joined to careful, detailed drawings of vaginas. Exposure of female sexuality does not, in Smith's world, lead to anything except more anguish.

After a while, the relentless emphasis on misery and pathos becomes oppressive. Even when

Smith calls a sculpture *Siren*, and thereby hints that the woman might possess some positive power, the work itself turns out to be a decapitated torso with a blue bird emerging from the neck. The relationship between humanity and birds is also explored in Smith's smaller show at the Anthony d'Offay Gallery, where female plaster heads are brought into swooning proximity with claws, wings and beaks. But no discernible pleasure arises from their union. At the Whitechapel, a sculpture called *Girl with Bird* contains the least beleaguered figure in the show. The bird, however, is attached to a chain held by the girl, who stares down at the captive pet with both arms hanging helplessly at her sides.

Only at the far end of the gallery's nave, in a place where an altarpiece might be displayed, does Smith allow herself to break free from this passivity and depression. Instead of drooping, *Lilith* has crawled halfway up the wall and crouches there, upside-down. According to the Bible, she refused to obey her husband Adam and escaped from his imperious demands. But Smith refuses to celebrate her independence. Instead, *Lilith* seems traumatised and defensive as she gazes through blue glass eyes in search of danger. Her papier *mâché* body looks desperately fragile, confirming once

again that the women in Smith's gruesome world have no grounds for hope, joy or redemption.

Why are all these figures marooned in such a desolating way? Smith offers no clue, apart from declaring in the catalogue that "I grew up in a family with lots of illness". Rita Donagh, by contrast, accounts for the elegiac strain running through her show at Camden Arts Centre. The paintings, drawings and watercolours displayed with such aplomb on the brilliant white walls are dominated by her response to the troubles in Northern Ireland. And the images' quiet eloquence has in no sense been lessened by the ceasefire.

On the contrary: the cumulative impact of Donagh's show adds up to a salutary reminder of the malaise which the peace negotiations are now striving to eliminate. The country explored in her art seems stunned by an excess of death, grief, fear and repression. She proposes, time and again, that Northern Ireland has become a strangely glacial region. Universal whiteness descends, especially in her paintings of the 1970s, and it threatens to extinguish everything in sight.

Although her family was Irish, Donagh has spent much of her life in England. So she views Ulster as an outsider, and openly relies on newspaper photographs as the starting-point for her meditations on violence and loss. But nobody could accuse Donagh of sensationalising her subject. The yellowed press pictures are confined to modest portions of her paintings, and juxtaposed with large areas where oil and pencil are deployed in an elusive way. As a result, plain statement is countered by complexity. Far from producing a partisan commentary on "the troubles",



In Smith's *Lilith*, 1994, the biblical figure seems traumatised and defensive as she gazes through blue glass eyes in search of danger

Donagh brings a deeply contemplative sensibility to bear on matters that another artist might well turn into polemics.

Such an approach is reinforced by her persistent interest in abstraction. Donagh's commitment to the plight of Ireland cannot be doubted, but it does not lead her to adopt a heavily figurative style. Looking at a painting as impressive as *Bystander*, we realise that large areas cannot be pinned down to a representational role at all. A small portion is devoted to a photograph of children playing in an urban wasteland. The energy of their near-silhouetted figures contrasts with the dereliction around them. They may even be acting out the conflicts which have turned their neighbourhood into a battleground. Donagh, however, refuses to fill the rest of her picture with similar manifestations of unrest.

She paints a horizontal bar near the base of the canvas. It has no descriptive function, but contributes instead to a feeling of constriction.

So do the thinly brushed passages of murky grey above the photograph. Loosely evoking an overcast sky, they give way to a central area of lightness where diagonal lines lance through the composition like wind-driven rain. Although there is nothing expressionist about the precise, controlled definition of these lines, Donagh conveys a desolate mood. And it prepares us for the most prominent presence in *Bystander* — a black form, ominously resembling a coat or sheet flung over a corpse.

During the 1970s, Donagh was preoccupied with this image. It originated in a *Sunday Times*

photograph of a body on a pavement, covered by the evening newspapers after a bombing massacre. In her work, these damp, creased sheets take on the pathos of a shroud, while reinforcing the notion of inaccessibility. The victim is hidden, and we are invited to share the artist's sense of removal from the scene. Even as she arouses our compassion, Donagh never lets us forget that we are shielded from the full horror and incapable of preventing its recurrence.

The sense of distance intensifies as her exhibition proceeds. But the adoption of an aerial view in the 1980s led directly to *Long Meadow*, the most impressive painting in the Camden show. By 1982, Donagh's work had centred on the turmoil in the H Block prison. Her husband, Richard Hamilton, painted a full-length figure of a bearded inmate, and coupled it with a close-up

image of the wall where he had smeared his "dirty protest".

Donagh, by contrast, was less direct. In *Long Meadow* she looks down on the H Block as if from the sky. The clouds are darker and more turbulent than before, even though the pigment remains thin. But they cannot stop the insistent, diagonal shapes of the repeated capital letter H emerging from the gloom. Mainly white, they look like phantoms plaguing the dreams of an artist whose work warns us of what will return if the unthinkable happens, and the peace talks fail to achieve their goal.

● Kiki Smith is at the Whitechapel Art Gallery (0171-522 7878) until April 23 and at Anthony d'Offay (0171-499 4100) until March 31.
● Rita Donagh is at Camden Arts Centre (0171-435 2643) until March 26, and then at the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, April 24-July 30.

AROUND THE GALLERIES

FURRY or slimy faces seem to stare out from small, crisply cropped paintings. Eyes follow you around the room and a strange sensation of familiarity starts to nag. Subdued, anaemic colouring, verging on the monochrome, suggests pictures of an unrecognisable species. Despite this close shave with illustration, Andrew Mansfield's paintings manage to avoid sentimentality. It seems that while making them he was led, like the viewer, from one visual suggestion to another, in a process that allows the imagery to create itself. These quietly disturbing paintings create a suffocating *fin-de-siècle* atmosphere.

Anthony Reynolds Gallery, 5 Dering Street, London W1, (0171-491 0621), to March 25

Upstairs at the ICA repeated handprints and frenzied splatters of blood cover the perfectly proportioned walls of the two Nash interiors as innocently as chintzy roses, tasteful stripes or abstract patterns. Red wax casts of an anguished head and a couple of severed arms are suspended upside down in the middle of an otherwise empty room, while a lifesize cast of a little dog is placed in another. Despite such dramatic content, Abigail Lane is definitely not concerned to tell stories. Each piece is autonomous. The sparsity of this installation and the ultimate denial of possible meanings does rather block any desire for further consideration.

ICA, Nash House, The Mall, London SW1, (0171-930 3647), until April 23

Statistics on the rates of mortality and injury among those working on scaffolding in England, Scotland and Wales during the past five years have been printed on the window of a Cork Street gallery. In the semi-darkness of a building-site that extends on to the street, accompanied by the deafening racket of rubble shooting down plastic tubes, Joao Penalva has pointed out that there were six fatalities in both 1989-90 and 1991-92. People push wheelbarrows up the ramp past this chillingly blunt message, which although correctly situated, is stunningly out of context.

Michael Hue-William, Fine Art, 15 Cork Street (0171 637 1817), London W1, until April 14

Initially Alex Huxley's show at Victoria Miro looks to be another architectural proposal for the millennium. Translucent ice cool "architectural" models sit at waist height on plinths. Carved collections of Modernist proportion, detail and spacing have been laser cut from acrylic resin. These transparent models, with delicious rounded edges and corners, suggest the fundamental pleasure of looking into imagined space. This soon recedes, however, when from another angle it is possible to see the corresponding photograph of a real interior, perhaps an art gallery, which inflects and illustrates the once imaginary space.

Victoria Miro Gallery, 21 Cork Street, London W1, (0171 734 5082) until April 7

SACHA CRADDOCK

Showing confidence in the average

At this year's European Fine Art Fair in Maastricht, dealers seem reluctant to take too many risks

THESE days, at international art fairs, the average quality of what the market offers is probably higher than ever, but there are fewer abysses and, unfortunately, fewer peaks also. This is very palpably the case with this year's European Fine Art Fair in Maastricht.

Maastricht is by general consent the leading all-round art fair in the world: which is to say, it more or less embodies the average. It is not necessarily superior in each section to some highly specialised fair, devoted exclusively to, say, ceramics or artists' prints, and quite certainly not to all the innumerable fairs of contemporary art. Indeed, its showing in contemporary art has sometimes been lamentable. Last year a concerted attempt was made to improve this section, and the improvement has continued this year.

In this area, British dealers such as Marlborough Fine Art and Waddington stand out for overall quality. Both have excellent Picassos, and Marlborough a notable Beckmann.

as well as lesser but still impressive works by regular gallery artists.

A number of stands play the rediscovery game. Studio 2000 of Amsterdam, which anyway tends to specialise in early modern, frequently Dutch art, has its usual quota of Toorop and his fellows but draws attention to the almost forgotten Hungarian Hugo Scheiber (1873-1952), who hovered in style somewhere between Expressionism and Deco. Salis and Vertes of Salzburg join several other galleries in featuring Louis Valtat (1869-1952), at his best in *Les Rochers Rouges d'Agay*, where a brilliant, almost Fauve colour range is dazzlingly deployed.

If the art fair sometimes seems to have a plethora of second-rate works by first-rate painters, this is balanced by a number of first-rate works by painters of the second rank. But there are exceptions to every rule. The most obvious here is *Orpheus Charming the Animals* by Albert Cuyp, shown by the London dealer Johnny van Haefen, which, at £6.5

million, is the most expensive single piece in the show. Quite recently unearthed and identified, this is an early work by the artist and one of his few large canvases.

Van Haefen also has an important *Wedding Feast* by Brueghel the Younger, in apparently excellent condition. Otherwise, the most memorable in the paintings and drawings section are frequently the work of much lesser masters: an exquisite and rather ghostly drawing of *Sainte Pelagie* by Hippolyte Flandrin on James MacKinnon's stand, for instance, or a bold and mysterious Jan Sluijters of 1919, *Negress with Poppies*, offered by the Amsterdam Galerie Mia Joosten.

Another aspect of exhibitors' tendency to spread risk is the virtual absence this year of the one-man show or the one-theme stand. Again, there is an honourable exception, the Galerie Siegfried Billesberger from Moosinning shows 29 unpublished drawings by the 18th-century master Johann Wolfgang Baumgartner, with



Portrait of a Boy Blowing Bubbles in a Landscape, by Bartholomeus van der Helst: on show at Maastricht

an elaborate catalogue relating many of them to painting or engraved illustrations by the artist. Even this year's loan exhibition, *Treasures from Basel*, selects works from four museums, ranging in date from a Greek marble head of the 4th-century BC to a Giacommetti "matchstick woman" of 1960, so that the effect is impressive but unlocalised. Like the fair in general, it

seems to indicate confidence in the overall value of the works on display, but uncertainty about where and how this value may be most reliably appreciated.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

● The European Fine Art Fair is at the Maastricht Exhibition and Congress Centre (0031 43 838 666) until Sunday.

A cut or two above the rest

Edinburgh is enjoying one of the finest shows of prints mounted in Britain for 20 years

tantialise the viewer with possible connections, while never stating what these connections might be. Now, turning to printmaking for the first time since art college, Davy feeds photographs of a glass eye and glass bottle stopper into a computer, and uses the digitalised information to generate colour separations. The three pairs of blurry ambig-



Adrian Wisniewski's 'Untitled (A Man Noticed a Box...)' from the book *For Max*, 1988

ous images which emerge are mysteriously beautiful in their own right, but they also, like Davy's sculptures, evince a sense of frustrated rationality.

The technicalities of the printmaking process seem often to have focused rather than diffused the artist's ideas. Each print series becomes a sort of mini-retrospective. And if immediate impact is lost by the small scale of the art, its portability has definite advantages — chiefly in the number of works which can be gathered together.

The juxtaposition of so many different talents creates a vibrant atmosphere. Peter Howson's dramatic series of linocuts, *A Hero of the People*, gains added energy when compared with Shirazeh Houshiary's *Enclosure of Sanctity*, whose nebulous aquamarine shapes seek visual evocations of spiritual purity. The delicacy of Lisa Milroy's etchings of rocks, butterflies and buttons seems all the more precise when contrasted with the deep solid colours and bold circular motifs of Terry Frost.

RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON

● Contemporary British Art in Print: The Publications of Charles Booth-Clibborn and his imprint The Paragon Press is at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art (0131-556 8921) until April 30

Writers without a cause

Lesley Chamberlain hears Czech author Miroslav Holub's wry view of post-communist literary Prague

Ten years ago East European literature was the envy of Western writers, who felt that the struggle against communism somehow produced superior poetry and novels or at least, writing where there was a clearly defined and important Big Cause. No British fiction seemed to match Polish or Czech chronicles in search of civil freedom. But, according to the Czech poet Miroslav Holub, with political liberation all that has changed. Many writers have abandoned "human solidarity" for the kind of experimental writing long familiar in deconstructionist Paris but anathema in communist Prague.

Holub has become a kind of roving ambassador of good taste in this country and was recently in London to help to judge the David Cohen Literature Prize, given to a British writer for a lifetime's work, to be announced tomorrow. Had his own perspective changed with liberation?

"I see human solidarity, plus a readiness to communicate, as essential to literature everywhere. We Czechs are passing through a confused time. But for the Cohen prize all the works I have read show human solidarity. They are comprehensible for the general reading public. That is how literature should be."

The uncertainty since 1989 and, in particular, the new subjective tone in Czech writing have confirmed Holub's traditional humanist view of literature and turned him into a wry spectator of developments at home. Trained as an immunologist, and at 71 still working in the laboratory, he found in science some of his finest metaphors for the human condition. Over a lifetime he has published 14 books of poetry and five collections of prose. "Still I feel I am basically a scientific worker," he says. "My position is that I am not sure."

Unsure about the current fashion for writers to write about themselves, and suspicious of "self-enchanting musicality," he gives equally short shrift to the tendency to experi-



Literary exile: Miroslav Holub — "We Czechs are passing through a confused time"

by in-jokes and linguistic games.

Literary Prague strikes him as gloomier, more neurotic, more concerned with personalities than it used to be. After years of communist pretension to "scientific socialism," he thinks it is also crudely anti-scientific. "I never felt like

a literary insider. I now stick to my scientific club."

What of the British literary scene now that the old East European model is no longer there to inspire? I suggested to Holub, who since 1990 has also been a vice-president of the Poetry Society, that he had a valuable role to play in

freeing our cultural self-criticism too from modish trivia. But he would not be drawn. Besides, he feels a special affinity with the British character. "Of all the Slavonic nations we are the most sarcastic, realistic and self-critical. In that we are much closer to British psychology."

MARC SPALDING

LONDON

MUSIC FROM THE CONSERVATORIES. The anti-grunge rockers of the year's Royal Academy of Music's annual festival devoted to one present-day composer. He will be listening to hear more than 30 of his works, some new to London, performed in four days of intense music-making. Not to be missed, the Guildhall School of Music mounts a vast event in St Paul's Cathedral tonight. Richard Hickox conducts Guilielmi forces and the chorales from St Paul's for a performance of Beethoven's *War Requiem*, written for the rebuilt Coventry Cathedral in 1962.

THE WINTER GUEST. Phyllida Law and Stan Thomas head Alan Rickman's sensuously directed cast in Sharmar Macdonald's play about love, survival, the perils and joys of life. Alameda Street, NW1 (0171-673 7373). Tonight-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2pm. 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Chelsea intending to stand by their jailed captain Downfall of 'cheeky chappy'

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

DENNIS WISE'S brief descent to a prison cell yesterday, and a pantomime that followed both outside the magistrates court and inside the Palace of Westminster, could be a mirror to the way our society has tried to excuse the behaviour of the Chelsea and England footballer.

Dennis, the unwise, and Eric Hall, his omnipresent agent, could surely form a double act that would bring home to us so many of the fears of what is becoming of so-called sporting behaviour.

Though Wise is talented — as quick as a lizard when he darts between the rocks of defenders — his skills are those of instinct rather than brain. Nevertheless, he can change the course of a match at a stroke. He can exasperate you and then lift you out of your compulsory seat, by scoring a goal which all around him would never suspect was a possibility.

He would do it with cheek, and then be as honest in admitting that he had no idea where the momentum sprang from. The eternal cheeky chappy, the lovable rogue of Stamford Bridge.

Yet that surely did not excuse the crime, for which he has been convicted, of assaulting a 65-year-old taxi driver. Nor could it possibly be a reason to treat a footballer any differently from the rest of us.

However, on the steps of Horseferry Road Magistrates Court, there stood Eric Hall, the obligatory Churchillian cigar in his hand, the address to the cameras suggesting that, even with his client "banged up" he was glad of the audience.

"I'm monster, monster shocked," he said — and not much more made sense, the "monster" and his temporarily jailed star, a compelling duet in west London.

They emanate, both of them, from the Wimbledon Crazy

Gang. For years and years, we have tolerated the Cinderella tale of this mighty little club which, on gates that would not feed the wages of Cantona, has provided shocks — monster shocks — in the FA Cup, in the FA Carling Premiership, even in the international teams of England, where Wise had become a favourite of Terry Venables, and Wales where Vinnie "bites your nose" Jones was yesterday confirmed as a valued member of a failing team.

At least last month Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, bravely, correctly, overruled his chairman, Sam Hammam, who owns the club. Hammam had insisted that Jones's antics were horseplay, that he was captain for life: the next day, Kinnear dropped him for three matches, a laudable disciplinary measure made only slightly less so by Kinnear's subsequent spot of bother with the law over a drink driving charge and with the FA over his own antics on the touchline.

One suspects that Kinnear, roughish himself, has, deep down, a real sense of British values, one that Jones and perhaps even Wise have not grasped.

Yet why should they? Yesterday, as it appeared that Wise had been given his due, Tony Banks, Labour MP for Newham North West, cried: "This is an appalling decision. I get the feeling the magistrate has been trying to make a name for himself, like some ham actor." His colleague, Tom Pendry, the shadow sports minister, at least had a more cerebral response. "I hope it is a lesson to anyone who might be tempted to go down the same road," he said.

The dilemma, ultimately, is that Dennis Wise is, on a good day, such an engaging little chap, one who stands barely 5ft 6in and weighs 10st wring-



Wise can be a match-winner when giving full rein to his instinctive skills

ing wet, that you cannot fail to treat him as a naughty schoolboy. But, though Chelsea's chief executive, Colin Hutchinson, insists that the crime is "football unrelated" and that therefore Wise should come out to retain his captain's armband, surely there is a greater duty for all concerned?

What Wise does on the field, or when leaving the England team coach's drinking club at night, are separate issues. But Wise, whose temperamental outbursts have gathered enough red and yellow cards to fill a cell wall, is, whether football folk like it or not, a catalyst for the hooligan fac-

tion which, alas, has re-attached itself to the west London club. It would be wretched in the extreme if, tonight when Chelsea play FC Bruges, there is further cause to rue the lawlessness that appears to be smothering the club's reputation, inside and out.

Giants at risk of being felled by their greed



ROB HUGHES

Overseas Football

Fate seems to be playing a delightfully fickle game with the high and mighty clubs of Europe. They, the likes of AC Milan and Barcelona, had forced Uefa, the European governing body, into transmuting the knockout nature of the European Cup into the dreadful, profits-for-all notion of the Champions' League.

What happens? The clubs that qualify — alas, none from Britain — exhaust themselves so much that, while they reach the last eight, all but one are struggling to compete in their domestic championships, the ticket for entry to the prize-money next year.

Ajax, who happen to play in a league they can easily dominate, are the exception. The favourites to win the 1995 European Cup stand all-square after the goalless first leg in Croatia against Hajduk Split. When the second leg is played in Amsterdam tomorrow, the Hajduk goalkeeper will need to be every bit as good as he was on his home ground. But at least Ajax have destiny in their own hands, for should they not win the multi-million-dollar final this time around, there is little in Holland to prevent them qualifying for 1996.

However, Barcelona are in double peril. Having lost 2-0 to Atlético Madrid on Sunday, Barcelona simply have to win against Paris Saint-Germain in the Parc des Princes tomorrow. They stand only level after George Weah, the much-coveted Liberian striker, equalised Igor Kornev's goal for Barcelona in Spain.

More than 115,000 saw that match. They saw that, without the departed Brazilian, Romario, Barcelona have nothing like the inspiration on European nights. Hristo Stoichkov, who with

Romario devastated Manchester United, has also gone stale: too much football for him, too many high rewards, too few occasions when his brilliance can shake well-organised teams. But unless Paris capitalise on home advantage, they, too, would rue the fact that the demands of Europe have wiped out their heavily financed domestic aspirations.

Milan, not within striking distance of a fifth consecutive Italian league title, have to win the European Cup to maintain the club's turnover. Thankfully for them, Marco Simone has become a striker transformed: he scored twice, the only goals of the first leg against Benfica a fortnight ago. He scored four more in the next game, and the solitary goal in Milan's victory over Padova last Sunday.

So Milan, thanks largely to him, have begun to resurrect their season after all the excuses that the World Cup had drained so many players, that the demands of club and country had demoted them of the will and the

energy to keep on lifting the same silverware.

Milan's opponents, Benfica, are trailing eight points behind Porto in the Portuguese league, and, in the Stadium of Light, another light for Benfica — who also would aspire to a Super League — is likely to go out. Similarly, Bayern Munich, no better than sixth in the Bundesliga, travel to IFK Gothenburg having squandered chances to reap anything more than another scoreless first leg.

How one weeps for the moguls of the European game, who sat and counted the money in advance. Their game was to deny the little clubs of Europe the romance of cup football, which meant, even over two legs, that they could play the giants. Uefa, so very weak, acquiesced, and formed its own abominable Champions' League, designed to give each of the elite clubs guaranteed pay-nights without the trauma of having to swipe aside eager little foes.

This summer, Uefa adds to the demands on the players' lungs and limbs with the grotesquely named and grotesquely intended Intercontinental Cup. This, for the benefit of more television overkill, will fill what is left of the closed season.

However, this week the Italians — and, I hear, the Spanish — have declared that they want no part in it. Would that the English had been among the first to show some decency, some spirit, in also deciding the fool's gold.

Weah: coveted

FA charges Kinnear with misconduct

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

JOE KINNEAR, the Wimbledon manager, was yesterday charged with misconduct by the Football Association over his outburst after the FA Carling Premiership match against Manchester United last week. The FA's action was a formality and comes on top of the inquiry that Kinnear faces concerning incidents at the match against Newcastle United in January.

Kinnear, who has imposed a touchline ban on himself which comes into effect on Saturday, said Robbie Hart, the referee, had acted like Hitler after he had been

ordered away from the dugout during the game at Selhurst Park last Tuesday.

Mike Smith, the Wales manager, yesterday named Brian Law and David Hughes in the 15-strong squad for the European championship qualifying match against Bulgaria in Sofia on March 29. Law, 25, the Wolverhampton Wanderers centre back, and Hughes, 22, the Southampton midfielder player, have overcome foot ligament and shin injuries respectively in rebuilding their careers. Vinnie Jones, of Wimbledon, is included despite biting a reporter while in Dublin for the ill-fated Ireland v England match

last month. "He has apologised and that's the end of it," Smith said. WALSLEY SQUAD: N Southall (Wolves), A Roberts (Queens Park Rangers), R Preston (Sheff Wed), K Symons (Sheff Wed), C Coleman (Cardiff), D Phillips (Cardiff), R Jones (Wolves), D Hughes (Wolves), R Gibbs (Wolverhampton), I Roberts (Wolves), A Mollie (Sheff Wed), B Law (Wolverhampton), M Bowen (Wolverhampton), B Home (Wolverhampton), G Speed (Leeds United), J Connolly (Wolverhampton), R Jackson (Sheff Wed), D Saunders (Sheff Wed), Sunday players: A Williams (Sheff Wed), N Blake (Sheff Wed), A Nelson (Wolverhampton), P Jones (Wolverhampton).

■ Sigurd Rushfeldt, 20, the Tromsø and Norway forward, is spending this week at Goodison Park on loan and may make his debut for Everton against Manchester City tomorrow.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Many bridge problems can be solved by asking yourself, would he have done this if he had that? A simple example cropped up when I was playing rubber bridge the other day.

South dealer Love all Rubber bridge

♠ J53	♥ 2
♥ K6	♠ A9875
♦ Q1054	♠ A9875
♠ K7	♦ 10853
♠ K87	♦ 10854
♥ Q42	♠ A9875
♠ A976	♦ 10853
♠ A92	♦ 10854

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: Seven of spades

I opened INT and finished in Four Spades, with no opposition bidding. Four spades is a poor contract, theoretically requiring: (a) the king of spades to be onside and (b) in most cases, a successful heart guess.

I won the first trick with the queen of spades, and continued with a low spade. East discarded a low heart. I won the ace of spades and led the jack of diamonds. West ducked and East played the nine. Now, when I continued with the king of diamonds West ducked again — he thought his partner's nine of diamonds indicated a doubleton diamond.

By waiting to take the ace of diamonds West hoped to get further information from East's presumed discard on the third round of diamonds.

I now led the queen of clubs, and when West won the ace I was able to announce I would play him for the queen of hearts. Why was that? It was by asking myself would West have ducked the king of diamonds holding the aces of diamonds, hearts and clubs along with the king of spades.

Obviously he wouldn't, so East was marked with the ace of hearts. Hence my only chance to make the contract was to find West with the queen of hearts.

East, a player with the Humpty Dumpty characteristic of claiming that his signals always mean what he chose them to mean, said his nine of diamonds was a suit preference for a heart. West was unimpressed.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BENAB
a. To rob someone of dignity
b. A Guyanese shelter
c. French scientist

DRISHEEN
a. Method of cleaning cars
b. A kind of sausage
c. A small soup tureen

GAVAGE
a. Method of force-feeding
b. An Alpine herb
c. Glue used to bind books

ACIERATE
a. To slice with ease
b. A toxic acidic compound
c. To convert into steel

Answers on page 42

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

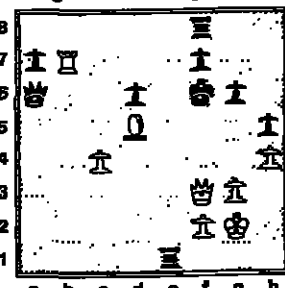
Karpov's classic

THE FIDE (World Chess Federation) champion Anatoly Karpov is striving to repeat his success of last year in the grandmaster tournament in Linares, Spain. After nine rounds, though, Karpov has still failed to break free from his two main competitors, the Ukrainian Grandmaster Vassily Ivanchuk and the Bulgarian Grandmaster Veselin Topalov. All three contenders have the fine score of 6.5 out of 9. Nevertheless, Karpov has produced by far the best chess. The quality of the following win where his python-like grip extended throughout the middlegame enabled Karpov to strike at the end with a deadly sacrificial combination. The key to Karpov's victory was his domination of the light squares. By luring Black's pieces away to the queen's flank, where they captured a pawn, Karpov depleted the black defences around his king.

White: Anatoly Karpov
Black: Alexander Khalifman
Linares, March 1995

King's Indian Defence

1 d4	Nf6
2 c4	e6
3 Nf3	Bg7
4 g3	c5
5 Bg2	Qc5+
6 Nc3	Nc4
7 Bc2	Nc2
8 Qxc2	O-O
9 e3	d6
10 O-O	Nc6
11 N3	exd4
12 Nxd4	Bc7
13 Rd1	Bc6
14 exd4	Bc6
15 Nd5	Qc8
16 Rxc1	Rc8
17 Rd1	Qd7
18 B3	Rd8



After 41... Kg7 42 Rxf7 43 Qxf7 44 Qb6 45 Kh7 46 Bg6 47 Kh6 48 Bf7 49 Kh7 50 Qg8 48 Qxg6 is a forced checkmate.

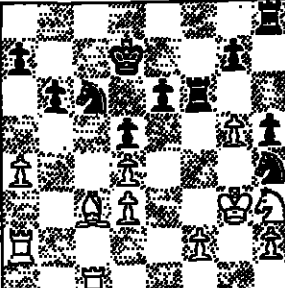
Las Palmas

The Kamsky-Anand match in the FCA (Professional Chess Association) world championship qualifying cycle resumes after a break with Kamsky taking the advantage of the white pieces in game four. The score after three games is level at 1½ points each.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Brudner - Koch, Berlin 1954. Black appears to be in trouble. His rook is attacked and so is his knight. However, he turned the tables with a fine tactical sequence. Can you see what he played?



Solution, page 42

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was presented to the Court on 14th day of March 1995, in which the said Petitioner, the said Company, requested the Court to order the liquidation of the said Company.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of creditors of the above company will be held at 11.00 am on 14th day of March 1995 at the offices of the Liquidator, Messrs. J. D. Garretts, 10 Mark Lane, London EC3A 7PF, for the purpose of the Liquidator's report to the creditors.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
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LITTLETON CHAMBERS
THE CHAMBERS OF MICHAEL BURTON QC

Wish to advise you that they have now moved from
2 Crown Office Row to new premises at:

LITTLETON CHAMBERS
3 KING'S BENCH WALK NORTH
T B M P L B
LONDON EC4Y 7HR
TEL: 0171-797 8600
FAX: 0171-797 8699
DX: 1047 LIX: LON 052

Your contacts in Chambers are:

Chief Executive: David Douglas
Clerk to Chambers: Deborah Anderson
First Junior Clerk: Alistair Coyne

PUBLIC NOTICES

HUMPHREY GARDNER CENTRES LIMITED
NOTICE TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
Humphrey Gardner Centres Limited is a company registered in England. The company has been placed into liquidation. The Liquidator is Messrs. J. D. Garretts, 10 Mark Lane, London EC3A 7PF.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE

0171-782 7344

OR

FAX: 0171-782 7827

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

071-782 7344

TRUSTEE ACTS

HARVEY FREDERICK
NOTICE TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
Harvey Frederick is a company registered in England. The company has been placed into liquidation. The Liquidator is Messrs. J. D. Garretts, 10 Mark Lane, London EC3A 7PF.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
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Martin can add polished touch to Light Veneer

LATEST ODDS ON WILLIAM HILL TV TEXT
• Teletext on CH4 P601/602/603

William HILL

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

Braithwaite rises above mediocrity of team-mates

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT IN BARCELONA

THE final dagger, when it came, went straight through the heart. The fifth indoor athletics world championships here met their end, quietly, without even registering a last plea for mercy.

Any lingering defence that the three-day meeting, which ended on Sunday, had justified the status of world championships was made to look foolish when the men's 4 x 400 metres relay, the last event, summed up the disappointing general quality and the ineptitude of the overall British performance. Only four countries lined up for what is traditionally a rousing finale and Great Britain finished fourth.

Too many celebrities were missing. Betsy Healy, a contender for outdoor world glory in Gothenburg this summer, Most events lacked depth. Yolanda Chen, of Rus-

The IAAF will announce this week that Mexico City has withdrawn as host to the 1997 outdoor world championships. Mexico's economic and political crisis has forced the decision. Athletics followers will breathe a sigh of relief as the city's altitude (7,300ft) turned the 1968 Olympic Games into a farce. A succession of world sprint records was coupled with distance runners from sea-level left gasping.

sia, set a triple jump world record then said that she had to in order to prove she was the best in the world because her rivals were absent.

Still, though, Primo Nebiolo, the president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), insisted yesterday that the championships had been of "superb quality". Chocolate-coated perhaps, with a thin layer of excellence, but the centre tasted distinctly ordinary.

These championships must change or be done away with. Since there is no likelihood that Nebiolo will concede that one of his world series events has been a failure, it must be assumed that they will continue, subornly carrying the word "championships" in their title. Therefore, the format needs addressing.

Prize-money is on its way, but whether it will be sufficient to persuade the best

athletes to appear without linking the championships to a lucrative grand prix is open to question. An indoor grand prix combining the best meetings from Europe and the United States is being mooted and future world championships might conceivably be worked in as the climax.

After the outdoor "golden four" meetings raised athletes' pay significantly, Nebiolo has no option but to introduce strong financial incentives to the IAAF grand prix final, which had become a lacklustre end-of-season affair.

Malcolm Arnold, the British head coach, said last week that "the problem is in calling it a world championships" and Peter Radford, the executive chairman of the British Athletic Federation (BAF), tends to agree. "If they were called the indoor world festival of athletics, nobody would be worried about that," Radford said.

Radford does not believe that prize-money is the solution. "You cannot force athletes to compete in more and more things; they will choose not to compete somewhere else. You do not solve the problem, you just move it. I do not think we should get too hypnotised by the fact that some of the big names were not here. I think the world indoor championships are where you meet the future."

If so, in Britain's case, the future looks bleak. With few exceptions, the athletes did not respond to the opportunity. Britain were 21st in the medals table, but Verona Elder, the team manager, said: "Every person in the team has justified their selection." Beyond argument were the performances of Darren Braithwaite, who won a 60 metres silver medal, Alex Kruger, with his British heptathlon record, and Jacqui Agyepong, with two British records in the 60 metres hurdles.

Most others under-performed and reports from athletes of low team morale and the lack of assistance from the BAF for some international athletes are worrying. Kruger competed with "To Let" taped across his shoes, a protest at his failure to find a kit sponsor. He has no indoor pole vault facility in which to train.

"I had to pole vault in the snow wearing my mittens" — and is angry that the BAF does nothing to help. Some athletes talk of prize-money. Kruger would settle for pocket money.

Britons show strength of challenge for Masters

American galleries warming to Faldo's expertise

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

IF NICK FALDO was disappointed at narrowly failing to win his second successive US Tour event, he did a magnificent job of concealing it after finishing runner-up to Mark O'Meara in the Honda Classic golf tournament here on Sunday.

Indeed, the majority of a gallery approaching almost 50,000 seemed more concerned at the British player's failure to add this title to the Doral Open — a point that was not lost on O'Meara, who withstood a fierce Anglo-Welsh assault, with Ian Woosnam taking third place.

The American, who produced a level par 71 to get home by a stroke, might have matched the card for his first victory in three years, but he could not match Faldo's composure after collecting a winner's cheque for \$216,000 (about £140,000).

O'Meara, 38, a seasoned campaigner with three Ryder Cup appearances and nine Tour wins to his credit, thought he had seen it all in American golf until Faldo made the final round a head-to-head encounter with a run of five birdies in 11 holes, taking over from Woosnam as the main threat to a home success by O'Meara, who lives 120 miles away in Orlando.

"I couldn't believe what I was seeing and hearing," an incredulous O'Meara said. "They were pulling for Faldo and not for me. Who's country is this, anyway? I never imagined that Nick would get all that support."

Faldo is still totally absorbed on the course, but far more light-hearted away from it. What Americans love most of all is a winner — and he is swiftly replacing a rather unpredictable Greg Norman in their affections.

They have also sensed that they may well be witnessing the return of a formidable talent, which threatened to be the best since Jack Nicklaus before Faldo lost his way, unable to add to his fifth major, the Open Championship won at Muirfield three years ago. But there are few laying long odds against him achieving a sixth with a third Masters title at Augusta early next month.

"Although there has to be a tinge of disappointment, I am very pleased with the way I played, given the conditions," Faldo said before heading for Orlando and the Bay Hill



Disappointment is etched on Faldo's face after a missed par putt at the third

Invitational on Thursday, when the world's leading 24 players will be in action.

"I managed to claw my way closer and closer, but I couldn't quite get there. Mark played very solid. I struggled a bit on the greens. I wasn't comfortable. They got crunchy and difficult."

It was evident that Faldo was not completely confident with his putting when he missed from 18 inches at the 10th and from six feet at the 17th, a birdie putt that would really have put the heat on O'Meara as he prepared to

play a tough finishing hole. Woosnam withered after four birdies and an eagle had brought him level with O'Meara at the 12th.

The Welshman dropped two strokes over the closing six holes, but it was a courageous effort and his simple swing stood up well in winds that often gusted at over 40mph. The 1991 Masters champion was playing his first event after a three-month break, in which he hardly touched a golf club for two of them. But this had a double-edged effect, first relaxing the

pressure because nobody expected him to be in contention but ultimately damaging his hopes because he had not felt the heat of battle for so long. "If I had been more into the season, I might have played better down the stretch," Woosnam said.

He and Faldo will gain a truer yardstick of their form at Orlando, where José María Olazábal starts his serious preparations for the defence of the Masters and Norman and the US Open champion, Ernie Els, return after a week's rest.

The height of curiosity

Tales from the Back of Beyond. Radio 4 FM, 10.00am.

A group of Oxbridge students describe how they went to, and up to, 20,000ft — a bleak mountainous patch of northern India to find out how Tibetan refugees were coping with their long exile. Were they keeping all, or any, of their ancient cultural traditions alive? Was there a flicker of hope in them that one day the Chinese invaders might move out of Tibet and they would move what was left of their culture to the west? Would they have to compromise what was left of their way of life? High up in the Himalayas, the students did not find replies to all these questions. They did, however, learn a lot about each other. They speak openly about their month of disillusionment. This is an offbeat travelogue.

Evening Concert. Classic FM, 8.00pm.

The climax towards which tonight's works by Czech composers build is worth the long wait. It is Dvořák's Symphony No 8. The fact that it is his favourite Dvořák symphony is neither here nor there. Nor is it of importance, except possibly to those who are statistically-minded, that the No 8 contains more tunes per minute than any symphony written by a composer whose generosity in the matter of melody-making is one of the greatest gifts in the classical music repertoire. The truth about the No 8 is that its tunes creep into our memories and take up permanent residence there. I do not think that anybody could wish for nicer tenants.

Peter Daville

RADIO 1	WORLD SERVICE
FM Stereo, 4.00am Dave Warren 6.30 Steve Wright 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa Farnham, including at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat; and at 1.15 The Net 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 5.00-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 Bruce Dickinson 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 11.00 Lynne Parsons	All times in GMT. 4.30am BBC English 4.45 Fulham 5.00 Newsbeat 5.30 Morning News 6.30 News Today 7.00 News 7.15 The Inexplicable Times 7.30 News 7.45 What Is...? 8.00 News 8.15 World of Faith 8.15 Radio 4 9.00 World News 9.05 Business Report 9.15 The Essential Quran 9.30 On Screen 9.45 Sport 10.00 News 10.01 Discovery 10.10 That Was the Year 11.00 Newsweek 11.30 BBC English 11.45 Morning News 12.00 News 12.10pm World of Faith 12.15 Matchday 12.30 News 1.00 News 2.00 News 2.30 The Inexplicable Times 2.45 Medical News 3.00 News 3.15 A Jolly Good Show 3.50 Sportsman's World 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Haute Afrique 5.00 News 5.05 Business Report 5.15 BBC English 6.00 Newsweek 6.30 Haute Afrique 7.00 News 7.05 Outlook 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Avoidance or evasion, the result is the same

According to Ken Dodd, an entertainer has just half a minute to win over the audience — so I'd better not hang about. "The first 30 seconds are the most important part of the act. You have to get through to the audience right away."

So for those of you who have made it to the second paragraph, the good news is that after 30 seconds of last night's *Face to Face* (BBC2) I was hooked. That extraordinary face filled the screen — the hair, the teeth, the eyes, and my goodness, the wrinkles. His trademark, he called the first three "My agent almost had a relapse when I said I was going to have my teeth straightened." The bad news was that it was Dodd who was supposed to be hooked. But as artfully as Jeremy Isaacs played him, Dodd wriggled, squirmed and finally got away.

Isaacs's task was made no easier by the fact that he had clearly

entered into some pre-interview agreement that the dreaded "I" word would not be brought up. Now every journalist at some time does an interview where a sensitive area is mutually agreed to be off-limits. "No agreement, no interview" can have that effect on integrity. But it should have no place on *Face to Face*, traditionally a civilised yet no-holds-barred encounter. So the moment the producer found himself saying: "No, if you don't want to talk about income tax that's fine, Mr Dodd" he should have called the whole thing off.

Instead we had an enjoyable but unrevealing 40 minutes in the company of Dodd the comedian, and barely a glimpse of Dodd the man. He was happy to admit there was a difference as Isaacs pressed him to reveal his true age. "You can have the comedian's answer or the true answer." In fact, all he offered was the comedian's answer

— "I think I'm 35". In which case, he was definitely using the wrong moisturiser.

Dodd the comedian, as if we didn't know already, emerged as the consummate professional. "Seven laughs per minute and you're motoring." How many is that per paragraph, I wondered? The pathos of the clown was evident. "All the time you are trying to say 'please, please, accept what I am doing'."

But the pathos of Dodd the man, whose one regret was that he hadn't had children, was barely hinted at. He'd like to be the laughing chap all the time, he said, but he isn't. "Life has its trials and tribulations and I do like to think seriously about certain things." Like death and taxes? No, Isaacs honoured their agreement and moved swiftly on to discuss the phallic symbolism of the tickling stick. "That's a fallacy."



protested Dodd. The comedian was back on top.

A few miles north of Knotty Ash, in genteel Lytham St Annes, the Cutting Edge (Channel 4) cameras went where no television camera had gone before — inside a British casino. Within minutes, it became clear why the Gambling Board had withheld permission for so long. The cameras brought bad luck — at least for the casino owners.

"Tonight we're probably lost about eight grand," said an agitated-looking employee known as the pit-boss: "the worst result I've had in one and a half years, and the third worst ever."

So there were lots of shots of happy punters? Well, up to a point. There was the man who was picking up a £5,000 win for the fourth time in seven months. How much had he lost in between, asked an off-camera sportsman? "I've lost count," he replied, confirming one of the many gambling truths that the programme revealed: that gamblers will tell you what they win, but never what they lose.

Actually, as a once-a-year Grand National man myself, my tolerance for gamblers telling me anything is pretty low and I did begin to tire of the nocturnal band assembled to explain the charms of Lady Luck. They didn't quite begin "Hello, my name is Jean and I'm

addicted to roulette and gold lame" but that gives you the general idea. Other people's therapy sessions I find about as exciting as other people's banknotes which were also in painful abundance.

Still, there was much to admire. The director, Rob Rohrer, had given the film an enjoyable flavour of the British seaside, with atmospheric shots of piers and fortune tellers. And when they weren't being baffling, the casino staff, the professionals, proved rather more interesting than their punters. The addictive exceptions were Howard ("Hello, I'm Howard and I'm addicted to late night poker sessions") and Elaine ("Hello, I'm Elaine and I'm addicted to riding expensive horses on the beach") — 5-4 on they're divorced by Christmas.

Over on ITV, the second part of *She's Out* left those of us who gave last week's sluggish opener a

gentle ride feeling rather cross. Dolly Rawlins may be out but she ought to be back in again sharpish she's gone barking mad. Courtesy of Lynda La Plante's increasingly erratic script, Dolly is experiencing violent mood swings that take her from Mother Teresa — "I'm gonna foster a lot of children here" — to Barbara Thatch — "never interrupt me again like that" — in seconds. No wonder actress Ann Mitchell has taken to wearing a permanently haunted expression.

Last night's episode hinged on an event of bewildering improbability. Namely that Jimmy the Fence would have the nous to steal the diamonds from under the noses of the waiting police, only to have the misfortune to be run over and killed several blocks away by Dolly and the gals from the Grange. I don't know about you, but my suspension of disbelief is hereby suspended.

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

CHOICE

Network First: Troubleshooters
ITV, 10.40pm

The Belfast-based Pacemaker press agency makes its living by supplying newspapers around the world with photographic images from Northern Ireland. For 25 years up to the IRA ceasefire, these were usually pictures of conflict. Time again the cameras performed the same ritual, rushing to the scene of the latest atrocity, calling on relatives for a photograph of the victim and then covering the funeral. Made over the past year, this documentary is a revealing glimpse of the press photographer's job in difficult, dangerous and emotionally taxing circumstances. The irony is that with the cessation of hostilities the agency's work has become harder, because pictures of peace are less marketable than images of war.

Omnibus: Ready When You Are, Mr Patel
BBC1, 10.25pm (not Scotland)

Such is the huge output of the Indian cinema industry that actors can find themselves playing parts in several films simultaneously, even on the same day. Best known to British audiences for *The Buddha of Suburbia*, Harish Patel is a chubby, jovial character player who specialises in comic villain roles. A jaunty film follows him through a busy day's schedule as he goes from one film set to the next, changing costumes and characters and trying to remember his lines. Although getting held up in Bombay's traffic is a hazard of the job, Patel is a seasoned trouper who never lets his employers down. A hectic round of shooting is followed by a late-night dubbing session, but he would much rather have too much work than not enough.



Teenagers tout their business skills (BBC2, 7.30pm)

The Knowledge
BBC2, 7.30pm

The educational series reports on a bold experiment for helping children excluded from school for disruption or truancy. It is to train them to be entrepreneurs. On Saturday mornings, at Portobello Market in west London, these 15 and 16-year-olds join the regular street traders. Each group is given £50 to buy merchandise. They are allowed to keep the profits but encouraged to reinvest it in more stock. The children are given three guiding principles: buy low, sell high and keep records. They are encouraged to study other self-made business people. The idea was pioneered in the New York Bronx by a victim of teenage muggings, who was stung by the attack to offer youngsters something positive.

Madhur Jaffrey's Flavours of India
BBC2, 8.30pm

Establishing local colour is fine but there are times when you wonder whether Madhur Jaffrey will ever make it to the stove. Working her way up the western coast, she reaches Gujarat where a local harvest festival involves the throwing of paint and coloured water. Happily none of it is Jaffrey, who finally gets on with the cooking. The programme is notable for being entirely vegetarian. Indeed, followers of the Jain religion go even further than most vegetarians by eschewing root crops such as garlic and onions. Digging, they argue, destroys life. Even so, Jaffrey manages to demonstrate a tasty-looking pasta, made from chick-pea flour and yoghurt, and a couple of enticing desserts.

Peter Waymark

CARTLON

- 6.00am GMTV (7808337)
- 9.25am GMTV (7808337)
- 10.00 The Time... the Place (s) (775820)
- 10.35 This Morning. Weekday family magazine (2632219) 12.20pm London Today (Teletext) and weather (1499424)
- 12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (2978207)
- 12.55 Emmerdale (s) (Teletext) (2953998) 1.25 Home and Away (Teletext) (5780714)
- 1.55 Vanessa. Vanessa Feltz talks to people who have had disastrous dates. (Teletext) (s) (3573020) 2.25 A Country Practice (s) (7450728)
- 2.50 Blue Healers (7018462) 3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (6847801) 3.25 London Today (Teletext) and weather (6846172)
- 3.30 The Magic House (s) (2911191) 3.40 Tots TV (s) (8815511) 3.50 Twinkle the Dream Being (s) (8811795) 4.00 Bugle the Little Helicopter (8835511) 4.15 Dreamstone (Teletext) (s) (8828998) 4.40 Chris Cross (Teletext) (s) (8828955)
- 5.10 After 5 with Carol Keating (Teletext) (6023714)
- 5.40 ITN Early Evening News (Teletext) and weather (501462) 5.55 Your Show (s) (343578)
- 6.00 Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (191)
- 6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (443)
- 7.00 Emmerdale. (Teletext) (1066)
- 7.30 Saint and Greavale's World of Sport. Classic sporting moments from the early 1970s. Includes some vintage footage from the boxer who "slung like a bee" (s) (627)
- 8.00 The Bill: Count to Ten. June Ackland is accused of perverting the course of justice. (Teletext) (8694)
- 8.30 September Song. Ted and Vicki anxiously await news of Billy. (Teletext) (s) (8849)
- 9.00 Peak Practice: Fighting Chance. A boxing champion suffers a series of blackouts, meanwhile, in Africa, Jack makes an important decision. (Teletext) (s) (9795)
- 10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (38269)
- 10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (131199)

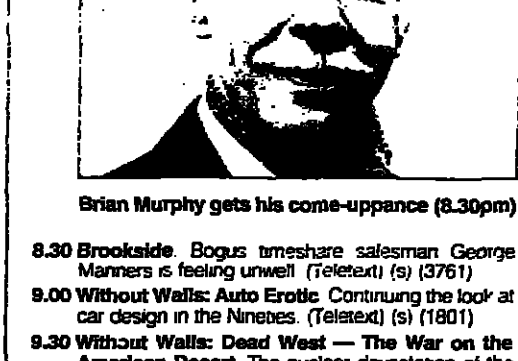


Picture of hope in Northern Ireland (10.40pm)

- 10.40 Network First: Troubleshooters. (Teletext) (74222)
- 11.40 Prisoner Call Block H (732627)
- 12.40am FILM: The Imposter (1984). A high school headmaster, who has copied his way into the position, battles to stop a drug supply line being run by a teacher. Directed by Michael Pressman (138757)
- 2.25 The Little Picture Show (5888467)
- 3.20 America's Top Ten (s) (8803819)
- 3.45 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (s) (23819)
- 4.15 On the Live Side (s) (1328947)
- 4.30 VideoFash. Includes the goings-on behind the scene at Lolita Lempicka's show (46738)
- 5.00 Vanessa (s) (Teletext) (s) (26486)
- 5.30 ITN Morning News (61912). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.35 Sandokan (s) (2973578)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (18563)
- 9.00 The Morning Line: The Cheltenham Festival. Previewing the day's jump race meeting. The regular panel is joined by Irish commentator Ted Walsh (s) (49646)
- 9.30 Schools. Eureka! (543882) 9.45 Stop, Look, Listen (546337) 10.00 Fourways Farm (7642172) 10.10 Maths Everywhere (1797288) 10.25 Time Capsule (1776785) 10.45 Coming Together (4713355) 11.00 Science in Focus (6878789) 11.22 Stage One (8337755) 11.45 School of Work (5925337) 11.45 First Edition (s) (4969482)
- 12.00 House to House. Maya Even discusses politics. (29882)
- 12.30pm Sesame Street. Lou Diamond Phillips is the guest (96153)
- 1.30 Channel 4 Racing: The Cheltenham Festival. Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the 2.15, 2.50, 3.30 and 4.05 races (s) (378153)
- 4.30 Countdown. (Teletext) (s) (240)
- 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show: Kings of their Castles. Husband who would like to turn the clock back. (Teletext) (s) (8868917)
- 5.50 Terrytoons. Vintage animation. (416801)
- 6.00 Babylon 5: A Spider in the Web. A killer stalks Talia. (Teletext) (s) (483375)
- 6.55 Terrytoons. Deputy Dawg. (751202)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (768598)
- 7.50 The Slot. Viewers' opinions. (306530)
- 8.00 Classic Motorcycles: Scootermania. Following the 1950s obsession with Vespas and Lambrettas, until the Mini took over. Narrated by Timothy Spall. (Teletext) (s) (8355)



Brian Murphy gets his come-uppance (8.30pm)

- 8.30 Brookside. Bogus timeshare salesman George Manners is feeling unwell. (Teletext) (s) (3761)
- 9.00 Without Walls: Auto Escort. Continuing the look at car design in the Nineties. (Teletext) (s) (1801)
- 9.30 Without Walls: Dead West — The War on the American Desert. The nuclear devastation of the Nevada desert is explored by photographer Richard Misrach, who penetrated some of the Pentagon's best-kept secrets and brought back the evidence. (Teletext) (s) (58882)
- 10.00 FILM: Closing Numbers (1993) starring Jane Asher and Tim Woodward. Anna knows her husband is leaving an affair but is shocked when she meets his lover. Directed by Stephen Whittaker. (Teletext) (s) (431795)
- 11.55 Channel 4 Racing: The Cheltenham Festival. Highlights from all six of today's races and analysis of the day's events (s) (488004)
- 12.25am Football Italia — Mezzanotte. Highlights of the Napoli v Lazio match. (288950)
- 1.25 Blood Sweat and Glory. The narrowing gap between men and women in sport (s) (763531)
- 2.00 FILM: His Lordship (1936, b/w). Comedy melodrama starring George Arliss as a dashing adventurer and his pompous twin brother. Directed by Herbert Mason. Ends at 3.15. (1709486)

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (38714)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (5519530)
- 9.05 Kilroy (s) (2408301)
- 10.00 News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (7838882) 10.05 EastEnders — The Early Days (s) (Teletext) (8642085)
- 10.35 Good Morning with Anne and Nick. Weekday magazine (s) (784848)
- 12.00 News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (1432240) 12.05pm Pebble — Mill with Gloria Hunniford (s) (7269153) 12.55 Regional News and weather (1580959)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (19530)
- 1.30 Neighbours (s) (7754733) 1.50 Going for Gold. Henry Kelly asks the general knowledge questions (s) (7757849)
- 2.15 FILM: Perry Mason — The Case of the All-Star Assassin (1989) starring Raymond Burr and Barbara Hale. The legal eagle defends a professional hockey star accused of murdering his boss. Directed by Christian I. Nyby II. (Ceefax) (263172)
- 3.50 Jackanory. Part one of *Dimanche Diller* by Henrietta Brantford (s) (882627) 4.00 Willy Fog (Ceefax) (9053424) 4.25 Grimmy (4207608) 4.35 Incredible Games (Ceefax) (s) (1338443)
- 5.00 Newsround (8808511) 5.10 Mairi Marian and Her Merry Men starring Kaye Morgan and Tony Robinson (s) (Ceefax) (s) (8880207)
- 5.35 Neighbours (s) (Ceefax) (s) (237240)
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (795)
- 6.30 Regional news magazines (376)



Carol Smilie braves the beach (7.00pm)

- 7.00 Holiday. Jill Dando visits Majorca. Sarkis Guha investigates tourism in South Africa. Monty Don goes on a botanical trip to Corsica, and Carol Smilie samples the delights of Skegness. (Ceefax) (s) (6998)
- 7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (s) (559)
- 8.00 Sportsnight Special. Desmond Lyndam introduces live coverage of the European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final second leg between Chelsea and FC Bruges from Stamford Bridge. With commentary from Barry Davies and Trevor Brooking (s) (8514382) NB: Subsequent programmes may run late
- 9.55 Main News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (6027141)
- 10.25 Omnibus: Ready When You Are, Mr Patel. (Ceefax) (s) (619240) Northern Ireland: Home Truths 11.05 Omnibus 12.00 1.35am Attack on Terror. Wales: 10.25 Week in Week Out (115801) 10.55 Omnibus (348375) 11.45 12.00 FILM: Roe vs Wade (350801)
- 11.15 FILM: Roe vs Wade (1989) starring Holly Hunter, Amy Madigan and Kathy Bates. Drama based on the true story of the battle to legalize abortion in the state of Texas fought by two women, an ambitious lawyer and her client, a pregnant woman without the means to keep a child. Directed by Gregory Hoblit. (Ceefax) (79627)
- 9.50am Weather (1698486)

BBC2

- 6.20am Open University: Maths (7116578) 6.45 Art in 15th-Century Italy (292462) 7.10 Working with Systems (5252638) 7.25 The Emergence of Greek Mathematics (585733)
- 8.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax and signing) (6529443) 8.15 Westminster On-Line with Sir Bernard Ingham (4017066)
- 9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 10.00-10.25 Playdays (8553191) 2.00 Gordon T. Gopher (8778356)
- 2.10 Horizon: The Betrayers (s) (Ceefax) (s) (3921880)
- 3.00 News (Ceefax) weather followed by Westminster with Nick Ross (4133375) 3.50 News (Ceefax) weather, regional news and weather (8824266)
- 4.00 Today's Day. Recent history quiz (s) (288)
- 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook. Top chefs create new dishes with previously unseen ingredients (s) (172)
- 5.00 Esther. A discussion on animal experiments (s) (7004)
- 5.30 Catchword with Paul Coia (s) (424)
- 6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air. American teen comedy (s) (793462) 6.25 Heartbreak High. The trials and tribulations of the pupils of an Australian inner-city high school. (Ceefax) (s) (997153)
- 7.10 The Tick (s) (344530)
- 7.30 The Knowledge: Street Smart MBA. (Ceefax) (s) (801)
- 8.00 Public Eye: Heritage Police. Are local authorities abusing planning controls in the name of conservation? (Ceefax) (3288)
- 8.30 Madhur Jaffrey's Flavours of India (Ceefax) (s) (2795)
- 9.00 Murder Most Horrid II: We All Hate Granny starring Dawn French and James Fleet. A family are in dire need of granny's inheritance, however, the old lady proves more durable than expected (s) (Ceefax) (s) (6733)
- 9.30 Cardiac Arrest (s) (Ceefax) (s) (63714)



Helen Pusey with her children (10.00pm)

- 10.00 The Labours of Eve: Helen's Story. Helen Pusey talks about the trauma of losing two of her quays after receiving in-vitro fertilisation treatment. (Ceefax) (s) (35443)
- 10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (313714)
- 11.15 The Late Show (s) (291288)
- 11.55 Weather (633530)
- 12.00 Open Mind: Beautiful Dreamers (4326689)
- 12.25am Introduction to Computer Aided Design (2940554)
- 1.25 The Record (s) (4577592). Ends at 1.50
- 2.00-3.40 Night School: Modern Languages (597196)

VideoPlus+ and the Video Plus-Code. The numbers next to each TV programme are the Video Plus-Code. This code is used by the Video Plus-Code system to identify each programme. Details of the Video Plus-Code system are available in the Video Plus-Code guide. The Video Plus-Code system is a trademark of Video Plus-Code Ltd.

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
As London except: 9.55am-10.00 Anglia News (883304) 12.30pm Anglia News (883304) 1.55 A Country Practice (7751288) 2.50-3.20 Brookside (7018462) 3.25-3.30 Anglia News (883304) 3.35-3.40 Anglia News (883304) 3.45-3.50 Anglia News (883304) 3.55-4.00 Anglia News (883304) 4.05-4.10 Anglia News (883304) 4.15-4.20 Anglia News (883304) 4.25-4.30 Anglia News (883304) 4.35-4.40 Anglia News (883304) 4.45-4.50 Anglia News (883304) 4.55-5.00 Anglia News (883304) 5.05-5.10 Anglia News (883304) 5.15-5.20 Anglia News (883304) 5.25-5.30 Anglia News (883304) 5.35-5.40 Anglia News (883304) 5.45-5.50 Anglia News (883304) 5.55-6.00 Anglia News (883304) 6.05-6.10 Anglia News (883304) 6.15-6.20 Anglia News (883304) 6.25-6.30 Anglia News (883304) 6.35-6.40 Anglia News (883304) 6.45-6.50 Anglia News (883304) 6.55-7.00 Anglia News (883304) 7.05-7.10 Anglia News (883304) 7.15-7.20 Anglia News (883304) 7.25-7.30 Anglia News (883304) 7.35-7.40 Anglia News (883304) 7.45-7.50 Anglia News (883304) 7.55-8.00 Anglia 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FC Bruges start as favourites

Chelsea struggle
to ignore tie's
stormy backdrop

By DAVID MILLER

CHELSEA play FC Bruges tonight in the European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final second leg at Stamford Bridge against the depressing backdrop of continuing crowd violence and a jail sentence handed out yesterday to Dennis Wise for assaulting a taxi driver. Augustus Mears, the club's founder, must be turning in his grave.

While, on the one hand, Supt David Fitzsimmons, in charge of police supervision for the match tonight, promised a "strong response" to anyone looking for trouble, on the other, Chelsea Football Club was aligning itself behind Wise, the club captain, in a mood of forgiveness. It seems that, in football, honour is divisible.

"We don't condone what Dennis did," Colin Hutchinson, the managing director, said in an official statement. "But it is non-football related and the punishment will come through the courts. Dennis lost the captaincy earlier in the season, but regained it due to his excellent attitude, and he will remain captain." Perhaps

against Blackburn Rovers on Saturday.

This supposed excellent attitude, never mind Wise's reaction when an elderly taxi driver declined to accept his fare, includes his regular challenging of referee's decisions whenever I have seen him play this season. Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, has previously spoken of using electric fences to deal with crowd violence. Does he detect

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Kinnear charged 39
European clubs in peril 39

no connection — on which issue any psychiatrist would advise him — between spectator behaviour and player behaviour? Bates is holding an even hotter potato than Peter Hill-Wood at Arsenal, and it is to be hoped that it does not burn his hands tonight.

Irrespective of yesterday's sentence, a brief time in the cells and subsequent release on unconditional bail, Wise would not have been playing

tonight because of a strain suffered in the one-goal first-leg defeat two weeks ago. Glenn Hoddle, the manager, has seven other players unfit or doubtful, so that Chelsea's prospects of reaching the semi-final against powerful opponents are remote.

The additional crowd problem tonight is that, not only will there be anarchic sympathy among some sections of the public for a jilted football hero, but also lingering resentment for the heavy-handed — though some would say legitimate — treatment of travelling supporters by the Belgian police before and after the first leg in Bruges.

I had had in mind recommending that Bates personally address the crowd tonight in an appeal to the common-sense that must lurk somewhere within even the unruly, in the name of the club and the game. Yet the club's statement that amounts to a pardon suggests that Chelsea view Wise in much the same way as Gus Mears's dog.

When discussing the transformation of the old Athletic Ground in 1904 with Fred Parker, a rival businessman and friend, Mears's dog viciously bit Parker's leg. "Always bites before he speaks," Mears observed. Parker took the incident in good spirit, and Chelsea FC was born.

Tonight, Chelsea's team and its followers have the club's future, long-term as well as immediate, in their hands in more ways than merely on the field. If police horses again have to be summoned into action to maintain crowd control, as in the recent FA Cup tie against Millwall, how much more vigorous is likely to be the cry in Parliament for the termination of such football matches than for the abolition of two men's right to compete in a boxing ring?

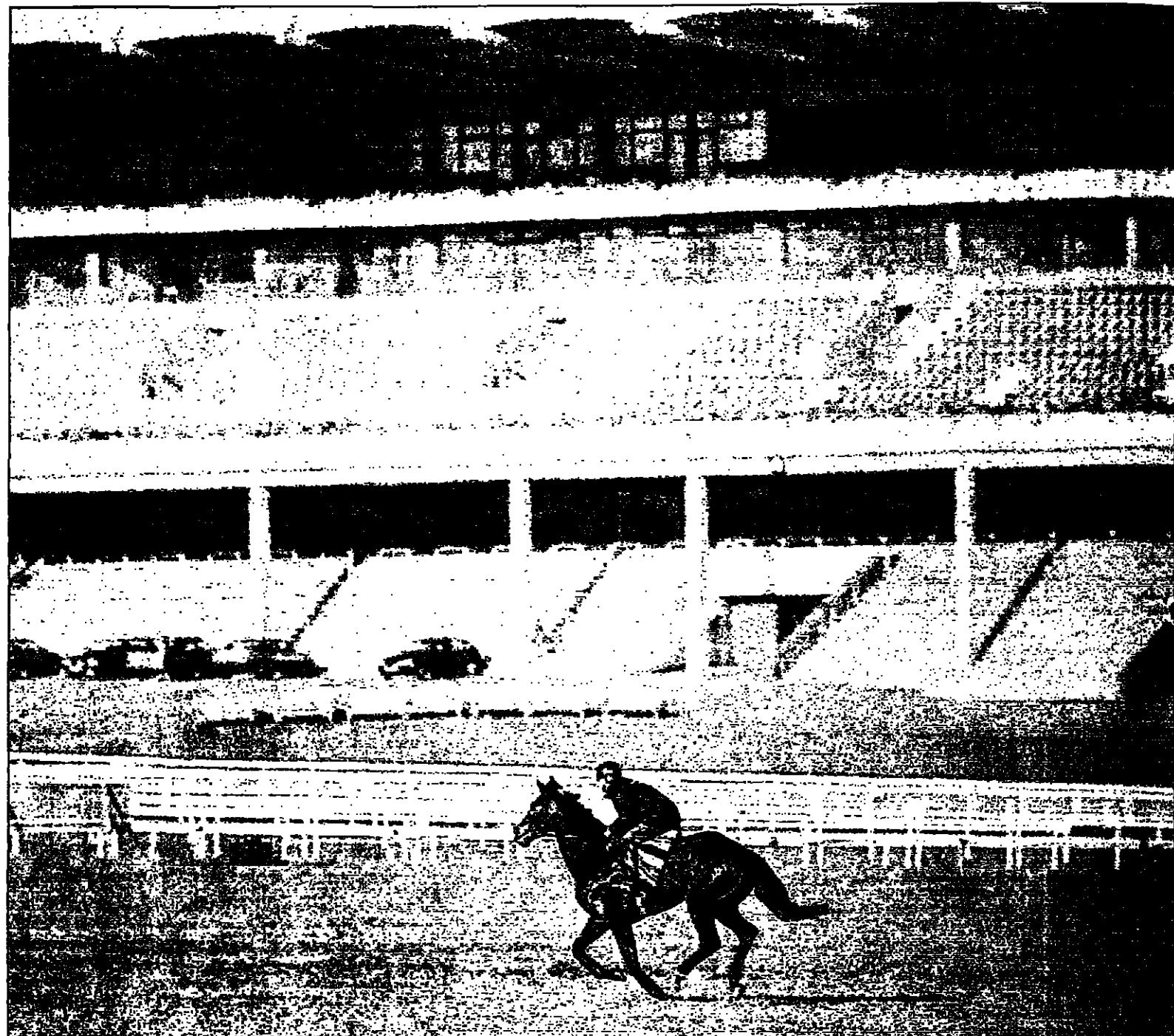
There will be 2,000 Bruges supporters among the 31,000 crowd, and police hope to be able to maintain segregation before, during and after the match. They are appealing for public identification of people shown in photographs relating to the Millwall match disorder.

Hoddle sensibly says that the situation should not affect the attitude of other players, who must pursue the task of winning the tie. That will not be easy.

Bruges were by far the better team at home and would have won by more than a single goal had not their pitch undermined their fluency. Stamford Bridge may also cut up badly after much recent rain, but not even that handicap should halt a Bruges side that lies third in the Belgian league, behind Standard Liège and Anderlecht, having defeated Anderlecht 4-1 at home at the weekend.

Chelsea are without Kharine in goal, Newton in midfield and Spencer in attack, in addition to Wise. Minto waits on a fitness test at fullback, and Stein is expected to partner Furlong up front.

"It's not ideal preparation," Hoddle said yesterday. "But, at the end of the day, I get paid to win matches and that's what I'm preparing to do. The players have just got to get on with the job."



Danoli, the leading Irish hope for the Champion Hurdle, at work on the eve of the Festival yesterday. Photograph: Julian Herbert

Maguire to miss first day of Festival

By JULIAN MUSCAT

THEY crossed the Irish Sea in their thousands yesterday with thoughts for the man they left behind. The Cheltenham Festival opens today but Adrian Maguire has more important matters on his mind.

Along with his father, Joe, his six brothers and two sisters, Maguire will be mourning the passing of his mother, Phyllis, from a heart attack on Sunday. Only after her funeral, in Kilmessen, Co. Meath, will he contemplate donning his riding boots for the remaining two days.

The consequent, hollow feel to the opening day will be amplified by the unexpected

absence of Relkeel, Maguire's intended mount in the Smurfit Champion Hurdle. The six-year-old, trained by Maguire's employer, David Nicholson, has damaged a tendon in his right foreleg. His withdrawal has dealt punters the first blow in this, the three-day highlight to the National Hunt season.

Nicholson said yesterday that his riding arrangements for the rest of the meeting would be governed by Maguire. "Obviously it is all very upsetting for Adrian but, if tomorrow morning, he wakes up and feels like riding, then fine — he will ride all of my horses."

It has been a bad week for Nicholson, whose Barton

Bank was scratched from the Gold Cup 12 months ago after breaking a blood vessel. Relkeel, a 4-1 chance before his withdrawal, represented Nicholson's best opportunity yet to win the Champion Hurdle. He was fined £1,500

Open Champion Hurdle 40
Danoli prepares 41
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by the Jockey Club on Thursday for threatening a photographer at Kempton Park in December.

The setback to Relkeel will be particularly disappointing for Brigadier Roscoe Harvey, who owns and bred the horse.

"The brigadier is 94 years old and I know he was really looking forward to the big day," Nicholson said. "I could see his excitement by the way he was getting about. When I told him the news, he said, typically: 'Bad luck, boy — I feel sorry for all of you'."

Relkeel's defection prompted a hasty revision in the bookmakers' Champion Hurdle odds. Danoli, the pride of Ireland, is now favourite, although Ladbrokes have him sharing that role with Large Action, the hope of Britain. Danoli forms part of the largest entry from Ireland this decade. The horse, who sparked jubilant scenes with his Sun Alliance Hurdle victory at the Festival last year,

looked in magnificent condition when he worked yesterday.

Ireland expects to snare a hatful of races at Cheltenham. The racing surface will be to their advantage; it has absorbed more than nine inches of rain in eight weeks. There is optimism that Merry Gale, trained by Jim Dreaper, can win the Gold Cup for Ireland for the first time since Dawn Run in 1986. The favourite for the race, which is run on Thursday, is Master Oaks. The nine-year-old is trained in Lambourn by Kim Bailey, who has yet to greet a winner at the Festival. Bailey also saddles Alderbrook, a fancied contender for the Champion Hurdle this afternoon.

Tottenham semi-final
request overruled

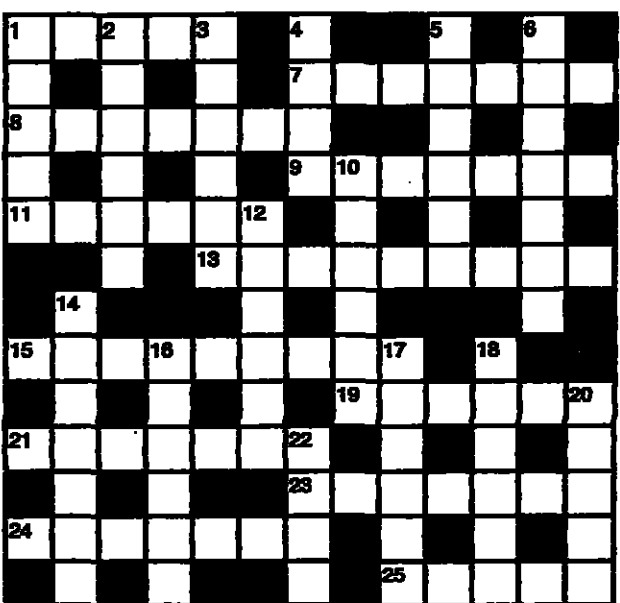
THE money that Leeds United invested on their impressive redevelopment of Elland Road began to pay dividends yesterday (Peter Ball writes). With rebuilding going on at Hillsborough, the Football Association selected Leeds to host the FA Cup semi-final between Tottenham and Everton. The other match, between Manchester United and Wolverhampton Wanderers or Crystal Palace, will be at Villa Park.

The decision immediately provoked protests from Tottenham, who wanted the

match at Wembley. Everton did not, and the FA refused to budge. Both games are live on television on Sunday, April 9. BBC has the game at Leeds at 1.30, with Sky showing the other match at 4pm.

If there is one replay, it will be at Villa Park on April 12 (7.45pm); if both games are drawn, the replays will be at the original venues.

In the Scottish Cup semi-finals, Hibernian will play Celtic on Friday, April 7, at Ibrox (Sky, 7.30pm); Hearts meet Airdrie the following day at Hampden Park (2pm).

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD

No 419

ACROSS

- 1 Blank, unoccupied area (5)
- 7 Into pieces; apart (7)
- 8 Flat, bevelled edge (7)
- 9 Offer of illegal inducement (7)
- 11 Type of narcotic (6)
- 13 Keeping out; a scoop (9)
- 15 Birthplace of Jesus (9)
- 19 Of government finance (6)
- 21 Atlantic colony; has Triangle, shorts (7)
- 23 Smiled broadly (7)
- 24 Old Greek infantryman (7)
- 25 Pawnbroker (5)

DOWN

- 1 Dry-plaster painting technique (5)
- 2 Slow movement (mus.) (6)
- 3 Dressed for, enjoying festival (2,4)
- 4 Sharp point, remark (4)
- 5 Jackal-headed god (6)
- 6 Rebuke; demonstrate again (7)
- 10 Allusion of pain, poverty (6)
- 12 Spread out; offer (6)
- 14 Take to more advanced stage (7)
- 16 Unassuming (6)
- 17 (Social) surroundings (6)
- 18 Affording attractive view (6)
- 20 Deposit; gatehouse (5)
- 22 Elderly (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 418

- ACROSS: 3 Washed up 7 Parish 8 Eraser 9 Brunos
10 Domino 11 Swan 13 Petty 15 Seal 17 Thorny 18 Imbibe 19 Gravid 20 Gougled 21 The bends
DOWN: 1 Jarrow 2 Bitten 3 Whistle 4 Harmony 5 Discipline 6 Personal 11 Sit tight 12 Auto-da-fe 13 Pensive 14 Takings 15 Subdue 16 Aubrey

TIMES PUBLICATIONS: The Times Guides: English Style and Usage (Hb) £3.99, International Finance, Japan, Nations of the World, Middle East, Good University Guide 1994-5, Single European Market 1994-5, Peoples of Europe (Hb) £16.99, European Parliament - June 1994 (Hb) £26, NEW The Times Guide to the New British State £7.99, The Times Map of the World (Wall Map laminated) £27.99, £15.99, Folded) £13.99, Miscellaneous: The Times Night Sky 1995 £4.50, The Times 1000 1995 (Hb) £23.50, The Times Concise Atlas of the World (Hb) £13.99 (reduced from £15.99), The Sunday Times Book of Answers £4.50, Book of Brainiacs £5.99, Prices include P&P (UK), Cheques with order payable to Alton Ltd 1st Manor Lane, London, SE13 5QW. Return delivery. Tel. 0181 852 4575 (24hrs) No credit cards.

Favourites drawn apart

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WITH due respect to Oldham and Featherstone Rovers, the annual rugby league showpiece demands, and will almost certainly get, a repeat of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final of last season.

Wigan and Leeds were kept apart in the semi-final draw made last night and are on course to clash at Wembley on April 29 at Wembley, where Wigan were the 26-16 victors last May.

A buoyant Leeds now look a more dangerous prospect. The speed and creativity that destroyed Workington in the quarter-finals were awesome. First, they must overcome Featherstone, who last reached the semi-finals in 1983.

Oldham are the only survivors never to have reached Wembley. They have lost in the last four on three occasions in the past nine years, includ-

ing to Wigan in 1991. They have had 104 points put past them in two meetings with Wigan this season, which hardly bodes well for the first semi-final, a week on Saturday.

The Rugby Football League (RFL) board took a firm line yesterday in banning David Myers, the Bradford Northern wing, for four months and fining him £2,000 for breaching doping regulations in failing to provide a urine sample for testing after the home game against Hull last month. David Watson, of New Zealand, who has been transferred to £150,000 by Bradford for breaches of club discipline, also failed to give a sample after that match.

After a separate three-hour hearing for Myers, the case against Watson was adjourned until Friday.

Myers's explanation, that he

mixed up the timing of the test, and subsequently provided a negative sample, were taken into account, but the RFL is anxious to send out an unequivocal message about the dangers and testing. The suspension is back-dated to the offence, on February 19, and is concurrent with a ban that Myers is serving until the end of the season for running into a referee.

No action was taken against Peter Fox, the Bradford coach, because of incomplete and confusing accounts about the alleged obstruction by him of Sports Council drug testing officers in their duties. However, Fox was found guilty of disrepute and fined £500, half suspended, for making gestures to the crowd after a recent home match with Featherstone.

SEMI-FINALS: Leeds v Featherstone Rovers; Wigan v Oldham. Ties to be played, at neutral venues, on March 25 and April 1.

Townsend's move south worries SRU

By MARK SOUSTER

AS THE Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) met yesterday to finalise details of a scheme aimed at keeping the best players in Scotland, Gregor Townsend, one of his country's brightest talents, confirmed that he will be moving to England next season.

Townsend, 21, the Gala and Scotland centre, who is in the final year of a politics degree at Edinburgh University, is joining Northampton, for whom he has already signed provisional registration forms. Townsend said that he had been offered a job in the City, and would accept. "I want to get at least a couple of years' experience in London

and then come back to Scotland better qualified," he said. "The problem is that there aren't any job opportunities in the Borders. When I do return, it would be to Gala. I couldn't imagine playing for any other side in Scotland."

Townsend said that he would be joining Ian McGeechan, the former Scotland coach, at Franklin's Gardens in the autumn, even if Northampton are relegated from the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship, and commute the 60 miles to London. Townsend may also return to Australia to play for Warringa, the Sydney club where he made a considerable impact last year, after the World Cup.

Townsend's announcement will be a blow to the SRU working party, which was set up last month with the aim of stopping the drain of players to the south.

Ken Smith, the SRU president and a member of the working party, which also includes Jim Telfer, the SRU director of coaching, and Bill Hogg, the chief executive, said: "We are extremely concerned about the possibility of our players moving to England."

"Some have gone, others we know have been approached. If all those who have indicated they might move actually do, then the club game here would be badly hit."



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